

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING CINCINNATI LEGEND, JOE NUXHALL

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and thank a great resident of the Buckeye State, Joe Nuxhall.

To fans of the Cincinnati Reds baseball franchise, Joe Nuxhall is—quite simply—an icon. To his family, he is a terrific husband, father, and grandfather. And to his neighbors in the Cincinnati area, Joe is a true community leader.

Born, raised, and still residing in southwest Ohio, Joe is nothing short of a Cincinnati sports legend. As a lifelong Reds fan myself, I place Joe's name among those of other all-time Cincinnati baseball greats like Pete Rose, Johnny Bench, Tony Perez, and Frank Robinson. From the moment Joe stepped onto the pitcher's mound at the history-making age of 15 to his current work beside Marty Brennaman in the Reds' radio booth, "The Old Left Hand" is as synonymous with Reds baseball as anyone in the organization's long and storied history. And this summer at the Reds' new Great American Ballpark, the team erected an impressive statue of Joe to prove it.

Next week, the community foundation in Joe's hometown of Fairfield, Ohio will honor him at a reception being billed as "All-American Evening Honoring an All-American." Certainly, those attending the event will celebrate with Joe his unique accomplishments on the baseball diamond. But just as importantly, donations will be collected at the event to benefit the Joe Nuxhall Character Education Fund, an organization that highlights Joe's role as a leader off the baseball diamond as well.

Mr. Speaker, for more than five decades, Joe has served and represented Cincinnati as well as anyone in the community possibly can. The only fitting way to end my remarks is to applaud his continued service to the Reds and to Cincinnati—and to borrow his trademark phrase of "rounding third and heading for home."

I congratulate Joe and wish him and his family a wonderful evening next Tuesday in Fairfield.

TRIBUTE TO VIKING POOLS OF JANE LEW, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Viking Pools of Jane Lew, awarded a 2003 Export Achievement Certificate in recognition of an increased focus on exporting.

The Export Achievement Certificate was created to recognize small and medium-sized

enterprises that have successfully entered the international marketplace for the first time or that have successfully entered a new market.

As our economy continues to become more global, it is important for industries of all types to develop relationships and ties in the international community. As the West Virginia economy diversifies, Viking Pools has taken major steps forward to promote the Mountain State and all it has to offer to the world economy.

By making strides to expand opportunities, Viking Pools has in turn brought benefits to the State that will be felt far beyond the business itself. I applaud Viking Pools for its efforts and look forward to seeing continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of Viking Pools, and I offer them as an example to small and medium sized enterprises everywhere.

TRIBUTE TO FLORENCE FOXWORTH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Florence G. Foxworth of Marion, South Carolina, for her contributions to our State as a public school teacher for more than five decades, her numerous civic and community activities and her particular dedication to fulfilling special education needs of challenged public school students.

Ms. Foxworth has been teaching in public schools since 1951 and has earned the Teacher of the Year Award at Mullins High School. Earlier this year she was named Marion County NAACP's Woman of the Year, and was named second runner up for the South Carolina NAACP's Woman of the Year Award. She is also a Golden Apple Award recipient for her work with special needs children.

In addition to inspiring thousands of students of all races, backgrounds, and beliefs to exceed and enhance the quality of life for all in our society, Ms. Foxworth also recognizes that children with special needs not only accords us some of our greatest educational challenges, but also some of our most rewarding experiences. As a former public school teacher, I appreciate her perseverance in insuring that every student leaves the classroom at the end of the day with a positive self-image, a commitment to always putting forth the best effort possible and a broader level of intelligence.

Ms. Foxworth's commitment to serving others extends well beyond the classroom. She volunteers with the ALS Association, serves on the Board of Disabilities and Special Needs, and reads for nursing home patients. Her political contributions include volunteering as a voter registration volunteer for Marion County and as a member of the South Caro-

lina Democratic Women's Council, National Council of Negro Women and the Palmetto Black Caucus. She also generously volunteered for my 1992 campaign for the seat I now hold in this august body, U.S. House of Representatives, and I am grateful to her for the time and effort she expended.

Ms. Foxworth earned a degree in Elementary Education from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina, and subsequently earned a Master's degree in Special Education from North Central University in Durham, North Carolina. She is a member of the NAACP and is actively involved in her church's activities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in honoring Ms. Florence G. Foxworth for her many years of service to South Carolina. She is an invaluable asset to Mullins High School and one of the finest mentors our State has to offer. I am proud of her many achievements and look forward to her many future ventures. I wish her good luck and Godspeed.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend an initiative recently launched by the National Association of Broadcasters and its local radio and television station members.

With over 140,000 military personnel stationed in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world, the resources to take care of our troops and their families is strained. As a former soldier, I have seen firsthand how difficult it can be for military families coping financially—and emotionally—with extended deployment.

Of course, the military is dedicated to taking care of its own. But, as the war on terror continues and needs escalate, the military cannot do it alone.

To respond to this growing need, the four Military Aid Societies representing the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force have joined together to create a single umbrella organization: the Armed Forces Relief Trust.

In support of this new relief organization, local commercial radio and television stations are airing radio and television Public Service Announcements, asking viewers and listeners to contribute to the Trust.

The over-the-air broadcast medium continues to be the most effective way to rapidly disseminate information to the public. Last year, the four military emergency assistance programs disbursed more than \$109 million in interest-free loans and grants to more than 145,000 individuals and families in need.

With the help of America's local radio and television stations, I am convinced that the Trust will be able to assist even more military families.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Local broadcast stations have a long history of being a part of America's security. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge recently encouraged Americans to keep around battery-powered radios and televisions as preparation for a terrorist attack.

Broadcasters' support of the Armed Forces Relief Trust is yet another example of local radio and television stations doing their patriotic duty. Mr. Speaker, the men and women of our Armed Forces rely upon the Armed Forces Relief Trust . . . and the A-F-R-T is relying upon local broadcasters to get the message out. I commend the local radio and television stations that have partnered on this important program and thank them for their work.

TRIBUTE TO HK CASTING OF
WESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of HK Casting of Weston, West Virginia for being awarded a 2003 Export Achievement Certificate in recognition of an increased focus on exporting.

The Export Achievement Certificate was created to recognize small and medium-sized enterprises that have successfully entered the international marketplace for the first time or that have successfully entered a new market.

As our economy continues to become more global, it is important for industries of all types to develop relationships and ties in the international community. As the West Virginia economy diversifies, HK Casting has taken major steps forward to promote the Mountain State and all it has to offer to the world economy.

By making strides to expand opportunities, HK Casting has in turn brought benefits to the state that will be felt far beyond the business itself. I applaud HK Casting for its efforts and look forward to seeing continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of HK Casting, and I offer them as an example to small and medium sized enterprises everywhere.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK M. HART

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Frank M. Hart for his longtime commitment and outstanding service to the educational advancement of South Carolinians both as a teacher and community leader.

Mr. Hart began his career teaching in the Landrum and Woodruff public schools. He later served as a principal of Chapman, Rivers and Pickens high schools. He went on to serve as Director of Instruction for Charleston School District 20, where he coordinated the Title I and Title II programs. That is where I first met Mr. Hart when I was a History Teacher in the Charleston County Public Schools. We developed a friendship which continues today.

His tenure in Charleston was followed by service as Assistant Superintendent for Instruction for the Pickens County Schools. In 1970 he was named Superintendent of Marion School District One where he served until 1988 when he retired. It was during this time that Mr. Hart reentered my public life when he invited me in 1971 to address his Rotary Club's weekly lunch. At that time this simple act was groundbreaking.

Mr. Hart's work as a consultant to the State as a member of advisory committees on curriculum, educational television and secondary schools has been integral to promoting innovative new approaches to teaching. He served on an evaluating committee for the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges and on an executive committee of the South Carolina Superintendents Association. He is also the past president of the Atlantic AA Conference of the High School League.

But Mr. Hart's instructions reach far beyond being a role model for public school students. They are just as evident in his personal life. He has performed extensive stewardship duties, including teaching adult Sunday school classes at his church, First United Methodist Church of Marion, South Carolina. He remains an active member of his Rotary Club and is a past president of the Marion Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Hart earned both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree from Clemson University. He has also studied in post-master's work at both the University of South Carolina and Columbia University. In addition, he served in the United States Naval Reserve from 1944 to 1946. He and his late wife, the former Betty Stevens of Cross Keys, South Carolina, are the parents of three daughters and two sons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in honoring a long time friend and mentor, Frank M. Hart for his contributions to South Carolina and especially Marion County. His career in education has been profound, and his personal life has paralleled the kind of work he dedicated himself to in the classroom. I am personally grateful to him and wish him Godspeed and the best of luck in the future.

RECOGNITION OF PRINCESS
FRANCIS HOPPER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, knowing that November is native American Indian Month I rise today to recognize my constituent, Princess Frances Hopper, of Fairfield, Illinois, for her continuous work in fighting for the rights and recognition of Native American Indians.

Recently, due to Ms. Hopper's advocacy, Governor Rod Blagojevich proclaimed September 26, 2003 as Indian Day in Illinois. I want to congratulate and thank Ms. Hopper for all she has done and will continue to do for the people in her community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BARRY D. LUTSY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Barry D. Lutsy, a West Virginia firefighter who was killed in the line of duty on August 13, 2003.

Barry Lutsy was a proud member of the Racine Volunteer Fire Department in Boone County, West Virginia for 15 years. Firefighter Lutsy served with pride and dedication in his many roles over time. His dedication to the Department and to the community were commendable and worthy of great respect.

Firefighter Lutsy once described his commitment to firefighting by saying, "I've always tried to help others that needed help, to administer first aid or try to save things precious to them . . . I was very proud of the department of the firefighters in which I trusted and depended upon when we were fighting a fire." These words illustrate the spirit and dedication with which Firefighter Lutsy served the citizens of West Virginia.

Firefighter Lutsy led an honorable life in which he made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the safety of others. All West Virginians and all Americans owe him a debt of gratitude, and we pledge to honor and respect his life and service always.

He leaves behind his wife, Debra, and two sons, Jeremy and Justin. While the death of Barry D. Lutsy leaves a void for his family, friends and all whom he served through the Racine Volunteer Fire Department, those who knew him well are comforted by recalling his many accomplishments during his lifetime of 45 years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of the life of Firefighter Barry D. Lutsy.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES
ON H.R. 1, MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION
DRUG AND MODERNIZA-
TION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the motion to instruct made by my good friend and Energy and Commerce Committee colleague, Congresswoman Capps, which would instruct conferees to drop privatization provisions and direct the savings to make sure physicians are paid adequately.

One of the most controversial provisions being debated in the Medicare prescription drug conference is one that would require Medicare to open to competition from the private sector in 2010. This provision builds on previous proposals to incorporate private plans into the Medicare program, such as the Medicare + Choice plan that was created in 1997.

Now they always say that those who do not learn from their mistakes are bound to repeat them. Unfortunately, if conferees move forward on this path, they will most certainly repeat the mistakes of the past.

First, let us not forget that the Medicare program was first created because the private industry couldn't provide meaningful affordable health insurance to our Nation's seniors. Even more recent attempts to use private plans have failed. Between 1999 and 2003, 2,400,000 beneficiaries lost Medicare+Choice coverage, as health plans scaled back or ended their participation in the program.

For seniors who rely on continuity of coverage, changing plans and doctors every year is really not an option. And in many areas of the country, especially the more rural areas, HMOs have been pulling out and many seniors do not have an HMO option. And claims that this will really save any money are deceptive at best. According to CBO, this whole program is expected to save at best \$1,600,000,000 over the next 10 years—less than one-half of one-tenth of one percent of Medicare spending over that period.

It does not add one year to the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund. So why this grant experiment? What's to gain by moving Medicare from the traditional government run program that has worked so well for the better part of the past four decades?

I would say nothing. There is nothing to gain by this provision. But there is plenty to lose. For the seniors who rely on this program to get the health care services they need, they could lose everything. Economic security, quality of life, their health, and even their lives. All of this for an ideological effort to dismantle the program by the very opponents who for years have want the program to "wither on the vine."

This is unacceptable Mr. Speaker. I urge my colleagues to reject privatization efforts, support the Capps Motion to Instruct, and stand up for our Nation's seniors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, on November 4, 2003, I missed rollcall votes no. 602 and 603 due to a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on these votes.

TRIBUTE TO LIBRARY CORPORATION OF INWOOD, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of The Library Corporation of Inwood, West Virginia for being awarded a 2003 Export Achievement Certificate in recognition of an increased focus on exporting.

The Export Achievement Certificate was created to recognize small and medium-sized enterprises that have successfully entered the international marketplace for the first time or that have successfully entered a new market.

As our economy continues to become more global, it is important for industries of all types to develop relationships and ties in the inter-

national community. As the West Virginia economy diversifies, The Library Corporation has taken major steps forward to promote the Mountain State and all it has to offer to the world economy.

By making strides to expand opportunities, The Library Corporation has in turn brought benefits to the state that will be felt far beyond the business itself. I applaud The Library Corporation for its efforts and look forward to seeing continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of The Library Corporation, and I offer them as an example to small- and medium-sized enterprises everywhere.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE BENNETT

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as the Member who currently represents Florida's third congressional district, I am proud to serve the area represented by my honorable predecessor, Charlie Bennett. He was truly a role model for anyone interested in public service. Regarded as among the most remarkable national leaders, his service to our Nation and its citizens remains memorable to this day.

Congressman Charlie Bennett was a great American who earned utmost respect in Congress. We can't even begin to thank him for what he did for us in this area and for the military. To me, Charlie Bennett is the one most responsible for making Jacksonville the military powerhouse it is today. And on a national level, Congressman Bennett, who served as the 2nd Ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, is owed a great deal of gratitude for making the U.S. military the fine institution it is today.

A role model not only as a politician, but also for those with physical disabilities, his list of accomplishments in his remarkable 44 years in Congress is seemingly endless. Even though he was stricken with polio and walked with crutches, the longest serving congressman from Florida remarkably never missed a vote. Perhaps the most noteworthy advocate for ethical reforms in Congress, he sponsored legislation that created the House Ethics Committee, and served as its first chairman.

Among the most noteworthy of his successes includes providing a hostile fire/imminent danger pay to our Nation's soldiers during combat, and making "In God We Trust" the U.S. motto. He also was instrumental in creating a strict code of ethics for government service, for co-sponsoring the Americans With Disabilities Act, for creating the Caroline National Memorial, and the Timucuan Preserve. In addition to his extensive knowledge of politics on a national level, he was also an expert in Florida history, and wrote several books on the subject.

Charlie Bennett will be missed for his service to his fellow man, his friendship and his statesmanship. He was truly the best of the best.

Members who wish to express their respect for Congressman Bennett may do so today at Arlington National Cemetery where his friends

and family are holding a memorial service at 11 a.m.

CELEBRATING THE 13TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HENRY S. REICH BUILDING OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the Henry S. Reich Building of the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, JCCNV.

The JCCNV, located in Fairfax, Virginia, is a social service organization dedicated to enriching lives through spiritual and cultural Jewish programs. The center is open to all, yet aims specifically to meet the needs of the local Jewish community by preserving and promoting the heritage and values of Judaism.

In 1977, an impressive 5,000-person turnout at the First Hanukkah Happening revealed both a need and support for a Jewish Community Center in Northern Virginia. The following March of 1978, the JCCNV first opened on Dorr Avenue with Adele Greenspon as Executive Director, a part-time Program Coordinator, and a part-time secretary.

In 1980, the newly established JCCNV Board of Directors voted to purchase the Commonwealth Christian School on Little River Turnpike to house the Center until a permanent facility could be built. Several years later in 1986, Jeffrey Karatz was appointed the second Executive Director of the JCCNV. Then in the spring of 1989, construction began for the Henry S. Reich building we are celebrating today.

Upon completion in 1990, Governor Douglas Wilder dedicated the Henry S. Reich building. This building since has provided a home for cultural, educational, recreational, and social programming for all ages, faiths, and nationalities. More than 150,000 visit the Center each year, making the JCCNV a key part of the ever-growing Northern Virginia community.

There is a myriad of programming available at the Center including: early childhood, elementary, teen, adult, new immigrant, and senior programs; camping programs; sports, fitness, and aquatics programs; art exhibits; and a JCCNV International Film Festival. The Henry S. Reich building also houses Geshet, the only Jewish Day School in Northern Virginia; The Center Company, the only Jewish professional theatre company in Northern Virginia; and an office of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

In addition, the JCCNV has a history of cooperative ventures with synagogues, local and national Jewish organizations, and Fairfax County schools and hospitals. The overwhelming JCCNV popularity motivated the Center to establish satellite programming in the western suburbs of Reston, Herndon and Springfield.

All things considered, from modest beginnings in 1977, the JCCNV has experienced great success. Its founders envisioned a center of culture, spirituality, learning, exercise, and entertainment; the Henry S. Reich building has helped make this vision a reality.

Through commendable drive and dedication, the JCCNV certainly has made a lasting impact on the Jewish and greater community of Northern Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia on 13 years of success in the Henry S. Reich building. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding their efforts to uphold Jewish tradition and serve their community.

TRIBUTE TO SPRING CREEK NATURAL FOODS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Spring Creek Natural Foods of Spencer, West Virginia for being awarded a 2003 Export Achievement Certificate in recognition of an increased focus on exporting.

The Export Achievement Certificate was created to recognize small and medium-sized enterprises that have successfully entered the international marketplace for the first time or that have successfully entered a new market.

As our economy continues to become more global, it is important for industries of all types to develop relationships and ties in the international community. As the West Virginia economy diversifies, Spring Creek Natural Foods has taken major steps forward to promote the Mountain State and all it has to offer to the world economy.

By making strides to expand opportunities, Spring Creek Natural Foods has in turn brought benefits to the state that will be felt far beyond the business itself. I applaud Spring Creek Natural Foods for its efforts and look forward to seeing continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of Spring Creek Natural Foods, and I offer them as an example to small and medium sized enterprises everywhere.

IN HONOR OF SGT JUSTIN W. GARVEY AND AMERICA'S VETERANS

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, twice a year we set aside a day to honor our military—Memorial Day to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice—and, Veterans Day to honor all who wore the American uniform.

All across America, in the largest cities, the smallest towns, and the most isolated hamlets, we mark this occasion with speeches and parades. We pay respect to the guardians of our liberties, for as Americans, we are the beneficiaries of their efforts.

Our military men and women are currently engaged in combat—a fight to defend the light of freedom and progress against the darkness of oppression and intolerance. The enemy we face is ruthless, a force that strikes at innocent men, women, and children.

As the guardians of our freedoms, these men and women are owed our respect and

our support. America has a special debt to her veterans, and we have a sacred responsibility to fulfill the promises made to them.

My prayers are with these brave men and women and I wish them success and a safe and quick return home. As so many before them, they are answering the call to defend liberty. It is especially a fitting tribute and expression of gratitude that we acknowledge one of America's true heroes, Sgt. Justin Wrisley Garvey of the 101st Airborne, by naming a bridge in Lewis, New York in honor of his service and sacrifice.

Justin was a man that touched the lives of those who were blessed to know him. I believe that no other statement describing Justin can match that given by his fellow soldier, Sgt. Douglas Norman.

It was the greatest honor to have been able to call Justin my friend. He was a man who had no enemies. His personality attracted anyone who came around him. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to work with him and to be his friend. Though he was only a man, he is everything I want to be as a man. Everyone, who ever met Justin, is better for it. It was an honor to have served with him up to the end, that night. He taught me what a true hero is.

What is also quite a statement is that Sgt. Norman, who survived the attack that took the lives of Sgt. Justin Garvey and Sgt. Jason Jordan, is going to re-enlist in honor of his fellow soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, our country operates under principles of freedom, the ability to pursue life, liberty and happiness. Our men and women in uniform serve a tremendous cause. They fight with hope against terror and freedom against oppression. Our enemies will never know freedom, because they are imprisoned by hate; and for that they have already lost.

As we cherish our rights—we should also cherish their provider—the American veteran. Thank you and God bless.

CONGRATULATING WALLACE RILEY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate and honor one of Northwest Indiana's most caring and dedicated citizens, Mr. Wallace Riley. Wally has served on the Lake Station City Council for 24 years and his many contributions to Northwest Indiana will be recognized on November 30, 2003, during a celebratory event at the Lake Station Veterans of Foreign Wars Facility.

Wally began contributing to his community at a young age. In 1947, not long after graduating from Hobart High School in 1944 and working at his mother's grocery store, he began building the Liverpool Paint and Hardware building. Within a year and a half he opened the building for business with his wife, Betty Lou Ele and ran the company for 43 years. Wally also served in Civil Defense for two years, and then was named Civic Defense Director for another two years. In 1948, he joined the Liverpool Volunteer Fire Department as a director, and was then made an honorary fireman of the East Gary (now Lake Station)

Fire Department in 1974, and still serves as an active member today. He also donated his garage building to the East Gary Fire Department Battalion for 15 months.

Wally has selflessly contributed to Northwest Indiana in many ways including serving as a Democratic Precinct Committeeman for a total of 13 years, as well as directing and sponsoring the building of a new sidewalk in front of Evans School in Lake Station. He also worked with various Lake County Councilmen to pave many local streets, to widen 35th Avenue, and he has participated in many local projects in Lake Station as a volunteer. He joined the East Gary Chamber of Commerce and served as Director, Vice President, and President during his tenure with the organization.

Although Wally has served on numerous committees and has donated his time throughout his entire life to his Northwest Indiana Community, he has never neglected to provide support and love for his family. Wally and his wife Betty Lou, have four children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Wally Riley has given his time and efforts selflessly to his community and has provided leadership and dedication to all of Northwest Indiana. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Mr. Wallace Riley on his outstanding accomplishments throughout his life. His career of service to his community is worthy of the highest commendation.

TRIBUTE TO PREISER SCIENTIFIC OF ST. ALBANS, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Preiser Scientific of St. Albans, West Virginia for being awarded a 2003 Export Achievement Certificate in recognition of an increased focus on exporting.

The Export Achievement Certificate was created to recognize small and medium-sized enterprises that have successfully entered the international marketplace for the first time or that have successfully entered a new market.

As our economy continues to become more global, it is important for industries of all types to develop relationships and ties in the international community. As the West Virginia economy diversifies, Preiser Scientific has taken major steps forward to promote the Mountain State and all it has to offer to the world economy.

By making strides to expand opportunities, Preiser Scientific has in turn brought benefits to the state that will be felt far beyond the business itself. I applaud Preiser Scientific for its efforts and look forward to seeing continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of Preiser Scientific, and I offer them as an example to small and medium sized enterprises everywhere.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2559,
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, in response to questions on why I was one of five Members to vote against the conference report on H.R. 2259, the Military Construction Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004, I prepared the following statement: I voted against yesterday's conference report because it fails to include a vital project important to our national security on the Northern Border at the Niagara Air Reserve Station in Niagara Falls, New York.

Shortly after being elected to represent part of the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station in Niagara Falls, New York, I visited the base. I have become familiar with the service it provides not only to our community, but also to the nation. Most recently, I visited for the base for the happy occasion of the 914^b Airlift Wing's homecoming from deployment. The Air Force Reserve has even publicized the contributions of the base by showcasing the decision of 1st Lieutenant Chris Pfeil, Jr. and Staff Sergeant Tim McNelis, both from the 914th Airlift Wing, to follow their fathers' careers in the military. I ask unanimous consent that this article on their service be inserted in the RECORD. Other units stationed in Niagara Falls that are defending the home front and serving overseas are the 107th Air Refueling Wing and soldiers with the 865th Combat Support Hospital.

I have worked tirelessly with local officials, as well as my counterparts in the Senate, to secure the necessary funding to construct a facility at the base. Unfortunately, it appears that this project, rated the top priority by Niagara County officials, was not included in the final bill for the third year in a row. The fact that this funding was included in an earlier version of the bill, and then stripped out at the last minute during backroom maneuvers which sent the money to another part of New York State, is an insult to our democratic process. It seems that only bases represented by Members on the committee were funded. This is a disservice to the military facility in my district and bases throughout the country. It is a disservice to the men and women in uniform from the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station who have been deployed to serve their country in Iraq.

I could not, in good conscience, support this conference report. There is no doubt in my mind that the soldiers, not to mention the citizens in Niagara Falls, deserve better than what this bill provided. I want to assure the courageous servicepeople at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station that I am already preparing for the next opportunity to remedy this situation.

[From afreserve.com, June 17, 2003]

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON IN SOUTHWEST ASIA
(By Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith)

SOUTHWEST ASIA—The decision to follow their fathers into the military wasn't a difficult one for 1st Lt. Chris Pfeil Jr. and Staff Sgt. Tim McNelis, both from the 914th Airlift Wing, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, NY.

"I was introduced to it very young," said Chris Jr., a C-130 pilot with the 772nd Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. "So joining the military was always something I kept in the back of my mind."

Pfeil said his father, Senior Master Sgt. Chris Pfeil Sr., a C-130 loadmaster also assigned to the 772nd EAS, never pressured him but set an example for him to follow.

"It had to be his decision," said Chris Sr., "and it was important to support him in whatever he chose to do."

"I've always wanted to fly, and this was the best decision," Chris Jr. said, "but he never pushed it."

For Tim, a C-130 crew chief assigned to the 320th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, it was his father's advice against joining another branch of the service that encouraged him to try the Air Force Reserve Command.

"He wanted to join the Marines at first and then he talked about the Army," said Senior Master Sgt. Jerry McNelis, a C-130 loadmaster with the 772nd EAS, "but I talked him out of it."

Tim said he's happy with the decision he made to join the Reserve because it allowed him to continue with school, and two years ago he was hired as a full-time air reserve technician.

He also is happy he's had the opportunity to deploy with his father in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

"It's good to have a family member here," Tim said. "You always have someone to talk to."

Knowing that his father will be flying on one of his aircraft also makes him want to go that extra step.

"It gives me the incentive to work that much harder knowing my dad is on my plane," he said.

For the Pfeils, being deployed here together has given both of them peace of mind.

"Any parent or child is going to be concerned," said Chris Sr., "but when Chris goes on a mission, chances are I was there the day before so I know the environment and what he can expect and that helps."

Having each other to lean on during this deployment has been a benefit for both father/son teams, and for the fathers it's an opportunity to see their children follow that much closer in their footsteps.

TRIBUTE TO AL HEILMAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated and selfless individual on the eve of his retirement from public service, Kalamazoo's Al Heilman. Since 1968, Al has served with great distinction the citizens of Kalamazoo in a number of capacities—from being first elected to the County Board in 1968 to having served as City Commissioner since 1995.

Many words come to mind as one reflects upon Al Heilman's public service to our community. He is selfless, generous, giving, caring, humble . . . the list goes on. Al is widely known for his extensive charitable gestures, often giving both money and time to local individuals, businesses, universities, and the community as a whole. There is no question that Al's dedication and contributions to the city will be missed.

Now, Al can "retire" to pleasing folks with his other trade—as owner and operator of

Heilman's Nuts and Confections. As a member of the business community, Al Heilman will continue to be a part of our everyday lives.

Our community is in debt to Al Heilman for his continued public service since 1968. I wish him and his family all the best as he departs public service. Al's contributions to our community have been many, and we are all better off from his service. For those that know him, his name alone helps define public service. All those that have met him, like him. All those that know him, love him.

TRIBUTE TO GTR OF GASSAWAY,
WEST VIRGINIA

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of GTR of Gassaway, West Virginia, for being awarded a 2003 Export Achievement Certificate in recognition of an increased focus on exporting.

The Export Achievement Certificate was created to recognize small and medium-sized enterprises that have successfully entered the international marketplace for the first time or that have successfully entered a new market.

As our economy continues to become more global, it is important for industries of all types to develop relationships and ties in the international community. As the West Virginia economy diversifies, GTR has taken major steps forward to promote the Mountain State and all it has to offer to the world economy.

By making strides to expand opportunities, GTR has in turn brought benefits to the state that will be felt far beyond the business itself. I applaud GTR for its efforts and look forward to seeing continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of GTR, and I offer them as an example to small and medium sized enterprises everywhere.

IRVING FRADKIN'S CONTINUED
WORK FOR EXPANDED EDU-
CATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, from time to time I have used this medium to share with my colleagues the important work being done by the Citizen's Scholarship Foundation of Fall River, Massachusetts, the organization created and run—with the help of many, many others in increasing numbers—by Dr. Irving Fradkin.

I do so not simply to give well deserved recognition to the tireless efforts of Dr. Fradkin on behalf of young people who might not get to benefit from a college education without his work, but more importantly to give an example to others of what can be done in this regard. Of course it is important that we in the Congress continue to provide public funds to help provide the equality of opportunity to higher education, which we all want to be a part of the American experience. A sufficient level of

public support is indispensable. But this does not mean that volunteer efforts of the sort that Dr. Fradkin encourages are irrelevant or insignificant. We need both.

Mr. Speaker, as an indication of the continued importance of Dr. Fradkin's work in helping gather funds to provide higher education to people who would otherwise be unable to afford it, I ask that the following documents be printed here. They include a Proclamation from the North Dakota Dollars for Scholars Governing Board, and several letters from young people who have been the beneficiaries of the scholarships generated by Dr. Fradkin's work.

PROCLAMATION TO HONOR DR. IRVING FRADKIN
ISSUED THIS FOURTH DAY OF JUNE, 2003, BY THE
NORTH DAKOTA DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS GOV-
ERNING BOARD

Whereas, North Dakota citizens value education and are supportive of young people pursuing postsecondary education plans; and

Whereas, North Dakota Dollars for Scholars has grown to having 69 chapters impacting 129 communities at the close of FY 03; and

Whereas, North Dakota has Initiated a state level organization, led by a voluntary group of state Governing Board members, to continue its rich history of scholarship support for postsecondary education; and

Whereas, all chapters in North Dakota to date have raised \$9.4 million for local awards and endowment building; and

Whereas, all chapters in North Dakota to date have awarded scholarships to 8,454 students why also receive a key message of encouragement and pride from their community in addition to the monetary award; and

Whereas, all programs of Scholarship America helped to bring over \$965,000 to North Dakota postsecondary education institutions, and

Whereas, the Dollars for Scholars program would not have been possible without the determination and vision of one man named Irving Fradkin;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved By The North Dakota Dollars for Scholars Governing Board:

That our deep gratitude is extended to Irving Fradkin for making Dollars for Scholars possible in North Dakota and around the United States; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the North Dakota Dollars for Scholars Governing Board presents this resolution and plaque to Dr. Irving Fradkin to honor all he has done and accomplished for youth and education in America.

CHARLES STROUP,

Hazen, ND, NDDFS Governing Board Chair.

JULY 26, 2003.

HOW THE AMERICAN DREAM CHALLENGE AFFECTED ME

As a child I did not think about my future very much. Therefore, I was not very enthused when our teacher told us that we would be writing an essay to compete for a scholarship. I remember thinking that it was pointless considering I did not even know what a scholarship was until that very moment. I was in the fourth grade and the only thing I cared about was getting through the fifth grade to make it to middle school.

My attitude changed when I won the award. I was very proud of myself. I had earned the scholarship and now I looked forward to the day I could put it to use. I don't think that the essay process itself made me feel that way. Winning is what made me realize that college was a possibility. Ever since then, I have tried my best to do well in all my academics.

It has been eight years and some of my achievements include membership in the National Honors Society and being awarded a thousand dollar scholarship. I was accepted to Stone Hill College and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. The American Dream Challenge is an excellent program that should be supported for the good it brings to our community. The youth is our future and the supporters of this program realize that and how important it is to influence children to strive for success.

NELIA LIMA.

DEAR DR. FRADKIN: I am a winner the American Dream Challenge and a Dollars for Scholars Scholarship. I would like to thank you and your colleagues for helping make my transition to college easier. Winning these scholarships made paying for college easier and I cannot thank you enough. There is so much going on when beginning college and these scholarships relieved some of the stress. Your commitment to the youth is unbelievable. I say this because I have experienced your commitment first hand. The belief you and your colleagues have in today's youth gives us a little more confidence and determination to achieve our goals so one day we can help tomorrow's youth. Once again, I would to thank you for helping me on my path into the future and that what you have done for me and so many others is greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten

Sincerely,

BRYAN S. DE SA.

C.V. CARROLL SCHOOL,
Fall River, MA.

THE AMERICAN DREAM CHALLENGE: A BLUEPRINT

The American Dream Challenge Program Committee is a dynamic, dedicated group of individuals who are working for a common goal, and unified goals. Their exceptional talents, dedication, and commitment are certainly felt within our educational system in our community.

What a Herculean task this is! The American Dream Challenge Group volunteers countless hours so that positive attitudes, ethics, and enthusiasm can regenerate in this depressed area and can begin with our youngest elementary students.

The concept of encouraging our students to do their very best, take charge of their lives, and stay in school is emphasized so magnificently by the Committee. The American Dream Challenge Group awards scholarships to elementary school children who are urged to put forth their best effort and make a difference in their school, their neighborhood and eventually give to their community.

With the American Dream Challenge we can feel the necessity for our students to strive for decency, and get back to basics of their lives.

Today we need more programs like the American Dream challenge with interested, concerned citizens volunteering with our youth and building better citizens and adults for tomorrow.

Thank you Dr. Fradkin and the American Dream Challenge Committee for including me and my students in a worthwhile endeavor.

Congratulations American Dream Challenge Committee and Dr. Irving Fradkin on a mammoth undertaking and a commendable start. The principal at C.V. Carroll school, Hr. Edward Campion, pledges his support for this program and encourages his staff to participate and pledge for future years.

BETSY COREY,
4th Grade Teacher.

NOVEMBER 10, 2002.

O. AMARELO,
American Dream Challenge,
Fall River, MA.

DEAR MR. AMARELO AND THE REST OF THE AMERICAN DREAM CHALLENGE CHAIRPERSONS: As a member of the first recipients of the American Dream Challenge scholarship award, I would just like to give you an update on my status in my first year of college, as you asked for us to keep you updated at the award ceremony earlier this year. I am a student at Boston University and I am currently pursuing a major in psychology, and eventually, a pre-law concentration. I have just more than a month left of my first semester and it has been wonderful. The college courses and professors have given me new challenges to keep me going in pursuit of my education, in pursuit of the American dream of success and prosperity. College life has been amazing with a whole new atmosphere and communal life and with many new experiences that I know will make great memories. I would just like to thank you again for the scholarship that you gave me. It helped me to buy the books and supplies that I needed for college, in addition to serving as a motivation for me to have this great opportunity of attending a place of higher learning. Without your scholarship, I still would have made it because of my determination to achieve my dream, but it would have been harder. Thank you once again and I hope that you continue to make students' college hopes and dreams to come true, as you did mine.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDER PAIVA.

ENDING PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 and to commend the Congress and the President for outlawing the gruesome procedure known as partial-birth abortion.

I do not refer to it as "so-called" partial-birth abortion like some do, because the term is perfectly accurate. An infant is partially delivered—often with the entire body outside of the womb except the head—then a pair of long, sharp scissors is forced through the back of the infant's skull and the doctor sucks the child's brains out before completing delivery of the now dead infant.

The child is just moments away from birth—just a few inches from being delivered, from being completely out of the womb and breathing fresh air. It is one the most horrific, gruesome procedures I can imagine, one performed without anesthetic on an otherwise healthy infant that is alive during the process.

In America today, in our infinite wisdom, we have decided that it is "cruel and unusual punishment" to sentence a prisoner convicted of murder to death by electrocution, but we freely allow abortion doctors to jam a pair of scissors through the skull of a healthy baby who is a tug away from birth, often 20 to 32 weeks in gestation and sometimes at fullterm!

I have often said that in order to reduce the number of abortions in this country each year we must change the hearts and minds of the

people, not just the laws. Sad and unfortunate as every abortion is, I am particularly grieved by each child that dies from a partial-birth abortion.

Should we not ban a procedure so violent and so repulsive that even many abortion doctors shun, that over 70% of Americans are against, and at least 27 States have already outlawed?

Mr. Speaker, this is a procedure that countless doctors and medical professionals have deemed unnecessary to preserve the health or life of the mother. Partial birth abortion is never medically necessary, yet we have been trying since 1995 to pass a ban on this procedure that a president with courage and wisdom will sign.

As the bill's language states and medical authorities have attested to, partial-birth abortion poses serious risks to the health of a woman undergoing the procedure and there is no credible medical evidence that partial-birth abortions are safe or safer than other abortion procedures.

Hippocrates, the father of medicine and originator of the Hippocratic Oath, charged to fellow physicians of his day: First of all, do no harm. Certainly all sane and rational people can agree that this procedure is anything but harmless, and I would venture to say quite ruthless to both the mother and child.

While there are various versions of the Hippocratic Oath in use today, all speak of the physician's obligation to improve the health of all patients regardless of station. At a moment in time like this when that solemn Oath is not being honored, it is up to Congress and the American people to step in and enforce it with decent and reasonable laws.

That is what the partial-birth abortion ban is: a decent and reasonable law in response to an indecent act.

I am pro-life. I believe in the sanctity of life and in my heart and mind believe that life begins at conception. I do not believe that protecting the lives of the unborn and the rights of women are mutually exclusive ideas.

But that is not what this legislation is about. This is not—and should not be—a debate of pro-life verses pro-choice. This is a prudent and reasonable bill that we should all be able to agree is necessary and important. While this legislation is now law, the fact remains that abortion is still legal in the United States. What this legislation does is ban the single most violent and gruesome abortion procedure: partial-birth abortion.

Because it is unnecessary, because it is harmful to all parties involved, and because it is immoral.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this vital legislation, and I am thankful to have witnessed the day—after so many years of trying—when this Congress, our President and the American people had the decency and resolve to see partial-birth abortion outlawed in this great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CONSOLIDATED WOOD PRODUCTS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Consolidated Wood Products of Beverly, West Virginia for being awarded a 2003 Export Achievement Certificate in recognition of an increased focus on exporting.

The Export Achievement Certificate was created to recognize small- and medium-sized enterprises that have successfully entered the international marketplace for the first time or that have successfully entered a new market.

As our economy continues to become more global, it is important for industries of all types to develop relationships and ties in the international community. As the West Virginia economy diversifies, Consolidated Wood Products has taken major steps forward to promote the Mountain State and all it has to offer to the world economy.

By making strides to expand opportunities, Consolidated Wood Products has in turn brought benefits to the state that will be felt far beyond the business itself. I applaud Consolidated Wood Products for its efforts and look forward to seeing continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of Consolidated Wood Products, and I offer them as an example to small- and medium-sized enterprises everywhere.

HONORING THE WORDS OF DANIEL COLVIN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to honor the words of Daniel Colvin, a gifted poet from Youngstown, Ohio whom I am proud to claim as my constituent. Daniel is doing his part, by means of meter and rhyme, to advance the noblest goal for which we all strive—peace in our time.

Daniel is a freshman at Kent State University, majoring in architecture and plans to incorporate writing into his future—a future which is no doubt bright. His poem, *Armed with a Conscience*, was inspired by the attack on September 11, and the subsequent War on Terrorism. Mr. Colvin has expressed hope that his poem “will strike the consciences of all of mankind and help lead us to a world of peace.”

I am pleased and proud to share with my colleagues and the Nation, *Armed With a Conscience*, by Daniel Colvin:

I wake up in a pool of cold sweat
My heart drumming in my throat
My eyes were wide from the fear of a threat
Such fear that I cannot emote.
The dream that I had was unbearably sad
It hurts to even think about it
A nightmare so real, you could never have had
Well, you could have; but I doubt it.
I was in the army being all I could be

Being trained by the best in the field
They had taught me all that a soldier should be

How to kill without being killed.

I, the quick learner that I had always been
Had gone through the training with ease
I had always fit in with the strongest of men
But found nothing in common with these.

Some of them crazy, and some without care
Some who had dreamed to be soldiers
Some loyal to their country, and some of them scared
Some just had chips on their shoulders.

I was the strong silent type, I guess
I had always been social before
But trust me, you'll laugh and talk a lot less
When you're 18 and drafted to war.

I had been taught not to murder a soul
But in war, what else could I do?
I remembered how world peace had been my goal
But in battle, I would have to fight too.

So across the cold, muddy battlefield I crawled
Armed with my rifle in hand
I saw hatred and death and I was appalled
All this over money or land.

Dead bodies and body parts scattered on the ground
My gun still fully loaded
Explosions and shouting consumed sight and sound
Everything near me exploded.

I got up and ran to hide in the brush
But a foreign soldier was there
He had been hiding and trying to hush
So I caught him a bit unaware.

Still he had time to cock up his gun
I would have killed him, but couldn't
I had time to take off and run
I would have ran, but I wouldn't.

Instead, we stood aiming at each others' hearts
To me, it was nothing but nonsense
Staring in his eyes, I could tell he had smarts
But he also had a conscience.

In that moment, I knew that he was like me
He did not truly want to kill
Even the way he squeezed his gun tightly
Said that he was there against his own will.

So what do you do on the battle field
When you cross a man like yourself?
You don't want to kill, but you cannot yield
Nor ask anybody for help.

Shaking like crazy, we both started to sweat
My heart dropped; his skipped beats
Staring and letting our eyes make the threat
When inside we were fearing defeat.

I wanted to end the suspense and forget it
I started to pull the trigger
Then my conscience said, “You're gonna regret it
Your purpose in life is much bigger.”

I let go of my gun, but before it fell
I felt lead pierce through my chest
The other man's conscience hadn't worked so well
So he did what he thought was best.

I fell backward all the way to the ground
Smacking the back of my head
My fellow soldier came and shot the man down
And the last thing I saw was him dead.

So that's why I woke up in such a fright
Fearing the thought of war
I was thinking of the man in my dream last night
And grew sadder than ever before.

The sad part is not the fact that he shot me
That's not it, it really isn't
But since his conscience didn't teach him
what mine taught me

I woke up and he didn't.

MAJOR HENRY A. COMMISKEY, SR.
POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2003

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to present H.R. 2438, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 115 West Pine Street in Hattiesburg, Mississippi as the "Major Henry A. Commiskey, Sr. Post Office Building". The Hattiesburg City Council and the Forrest County Board of Supervisors requested through official resolutions that the downtown Hattiesburg Post Office be named for the late Major Commiskey, who received the Medal of Honor during his lifetime.

Henry Alfred Commiskey, Sr. was born in Hattiesburg on January 10, 1927. He attended the Sacred Heart School there and worked as a brakeman on the Illinois Central Railroad before joining the Marine Corps on January 12, 1944, two days after his 17th birthday. Commiskey participated in the February 1945 invasion of Iwo Jima during World War II, where he earned the Purple Heart for being wounded in action. He also received the Letter of Commendation for "exhibiting high qualities of leadership and courage in the face of a stubborn and fanatical enemy."

Commiskey remained in the Corps after the war and rose to the rank of staff sergeant to become a drill instructor at the Parris Island boot camp in South Carolina. He later graduated from Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a second lieutenant on September 10, 1949. He volunteered for combat service at the outbreak of the Korean War and was sent to Korea with the 1st Marine Regiment in August of 1950, where he participated in the Inchon landing. A few days later, on September 20, 1950, Commiskey earned the Medal of Honor for his heroism atop Hill 85 near Yongdungp'o, Korea, on the outskirts of Seoul.

Serving as a platoon leader in Company C, First Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division (reinforced), Second Lieutenant Commiskey spearheaded the assault that was ordered on forces that were well dug in on Hill 85. Charging up the steep slopes on the run into heavy enemy machine-gun and small arms fire, he ran ahead of his men and was the first to reach the crest of their objective. Armed only with a pistol, he jumped into a hostile machine-gun emplacement occupied by five enemy soldiers, engaged in hand-to-hand combat, and killed them all. He then moved to the next emplacement, where he killed two more enemy soldiers before leading his men on further to route their adversaries and take the hill.

Although Commiskey miraculously escaped harm during the assault on Hill 85, he was wounded a week later and then again on December 8, 1950. He was then returned to the United States for hospitalization and later promoted to first lieutenant in June of 1951. Commiskey was presented the Medal of Honor by President Truman at a White House ceremony on August 1, 1951, becoming the first Marine to be so awarded for extraordinary heroism in the Korean conflict. Commiskey then became a student naval aviator in Sep-

tember of 1951 at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida. He received his wings at Corpus Christi, Texas in June of 1953 and later completed jet training at El Toro, California. He was promoted to captain in July of 1953. In April of 1954, Commiskey returned to Korea as a pilot with Marine Attack Squadron 21, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Commiskey returned to the United States in September of 1954 and continued his service as a recruitment officer and as an instructor for the Marine Corps School at Quantico, Virginia. He was promoted to the rank of major in July of 1959 and retired from active duty in August of 1966. Major Henry A. Commiskey, Sr. died in Meridian, Mississippi on August 15, 1971.

Last year, I originally introduced House Resolution 5495, a bill that was identical to the measure currently before us. The previous bill passed the House at the very end of the 107th Congress, but did not make it through the Senate before time ran out and the session ended. Due to that fact, I then reintroduced the bill for the 108th Congress, and it was designated with a new number. The entire Mississippi House delegation signed on as original cosponsors of both bills, for which I am very grateful. I also thank both the majority and minority leadership of the House of Representatives and the Government Reform Committee for shepherding the bill through the House once more.

On behalf of our Nation, the State of Mississippi, the citizens of the Hattiesburg area, the local officials there, and the Commiskey family, it is my privilege to present this legislation to the United States Congress in honor of Major Henry A. Commiskey, Sr., his sacrifice, and his awe-inspiring service to his country.

RECOGNIZING CONTINUED IMPORTANCE OF TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP AND PROMOTING STRONGER RELATIONS WITH EUROPE

SPEECH OF

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 390, which passed the House last night, and wish to commend the Chairman of the Europe Subcommittee for his efforts to bring this important measure to the House.

As the Chairman noted, the recent debate over Iraq was a particularly difficult time for overall transatlantic relations. As my Colleague correctly pointed out, it is important to recognize that this dispute was with four nations in particular and not the whole of Europe. France and Germany are important friends and allies and it was particularly frustrating that we were having such a disagreement with them. However, we must not ignore the contributions and sacrifices the British, the Italians, the Spanish, the Poles and the many others who did stand beside us, provided during this difficult and dangerous time. And while some of us may have consumed "freedom fries" and avoided Bordeaux wines or Bittberger beer, many of us were happy to

travel to Prague for the NATO summit or to Rome for the Legislators' Dialogue in order to assess the state of our relationship and to work on ways to reenergize the U.S.-European partnership.

Now, however, it is time to move on. We must work to reestablish the kind of strong transatlantic relationship with all of Europe which is necessary if we are to deal effectively with those international issues which effect us on both sides of the Atlantic. The resolution before us recognizes that both the United States and Europe face serious challenges at home and abroad and that to meet these challenges we must adapt and strengthen the transatlantic partnership into a transatlantic community of action. As the resolution correctly states, the transatlantic relationship is much too important to allow an issue such as Iraq, however difficult, to result in both the United States and Europe drifting apart or worse, becoming rivals.

As Chair of the U.S. delegation to the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue, I am especially pleased that the resolution mentions the importance of this organization and the kind of dialogue the TLD promotes with our counterparts in the European Parliament. As my Colleagues may know, in July, after the bitter debate over Iraq subsided, we had a very successful meeting of the TLD. During that meeting, both delegations pledged to rededicate ourselves to strengthening the transatlantic partnership by renewing our pursuit of common values such as democracy, human rights and open markets and societies and by reinforcing inter-parliamentary contacts.

At that meeting we also agreed to try to enhance the effectiveness of our operations by establishing new consultative mechanisms which would serve as an "early-warning" system designed to allow intensified dialogue on possible contentious issues at early stages of the legislative process.

Mr. Speaker, next week our Colleagues from the Parliament will be coming to the United States to continue our discussions. I believe we all understand and appreciate the importance of this dialogue and the need to continue to support stronger relations with Europe and its Union through mechanisms such as these Parliamentary exchanges.

I urge passage of this resolution.

COMMENDING THE AMERICAN VITILIGO RESEARCH FOUNDATION

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a little-known but debilitating disease that profoundly impacts its victims.

Vitiligo is an auto-immune disorder which causes the skin to lose its pigmentation, resulting in the development of white patches around the bodies of those afflicted with it. Although its physical effects are neither as severe nor life-threatening as some diseases, vitiligo profoundly impacts the social and psychological well-being of its victims, particularly children and African-Americans.

Vitiligo may physically be painless, but the discrimination it precipitates hurts nonetheless. The more than 5 million American men,

women, and children who have vitiligo know the sting and emotional distress it causes. I have seen it in the eyes and heard it in the voices of those with whom I've met who have it.

I learned about vitiligo from one of my constituents, Stella Pavlides, who is the Founder and President of the American Vitiligo Research Foundation, which is headquartered in my congressional district in Clearwater, Florida. Stella is a tireless advocate who has dedicated her life to finding a cure for vitiligo and ending the hurt it causes. I have pledged to her that I will work with my House colleagues to raise public awareness about vitiligo so that we can make it a disease of the past and not the mystery illness shrouded in ignorance that it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend our colleague, Congressman TODD TIAHRT, for taking a leading role in helping me bring this disease to the attention of our colleagues. I hope that all of our colleagues will join us in raising public awareness about vitiligo and dedicating ourselves to helping the medical and scientific communities find a cure for it.

HONORING VETERANS

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the 77,000 veterans in my district who have dedicated their lives to fighting for this great country. All Americans must understand that we have a responsibility to support the men and women in uniform who risk their lives on a daily basis to protect the freedoms we enjoy. We must never forget that hundreds of millions of people in the United States and around the world sleep in peace because hundreds of thousands of Americans rest in graves all across the world—fallen heroes in the name of freedom. The price of freedom is always high, but the price of war is even higher! And no one knows that better than our Nation's veterans. As guardians of freedom, righteousness, and justice, their actions have cemented the foundation of this great Nation and helped shape the destiny of our Nation and our world. It is their continued spirit, service and sacrifice that have helped our country maintain its posture in the world, and we cannot afford to ignore the promises we made to them when they first made their promise to protect our country.

First, it's about our veterans' spirit—a spirit that has been unsurpassed. Over 48 million Americans have stepped forward to defend our land since our Nation's founding. And today, there are 25 million living veterans who have served in times of war and peace. Individuals who dared to make a difference, and people who were willing to take a stand—whether it was convenient or not! Let each of us continue to work and honor our veterans' spirit, who have proved their heroism and their love for our country—time and time again.

We must also pay tribute to our veterans' dedicated service to this country. From Lexington and Concord to Normandy and Okinawa, from Korea and Vietnam to the Persian Gulf, and from the streets of Baghdad to the mountains of Afghanistan, our veterans, mili-

tary retirees, servicemen and women have and are defending our great country at a great cost. No group of Americans deserve our admiration and respect more than those who have worn the uniform of the United States of America and fought to protect our homes, our way of life, our freedom, and our future.

Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear where I stand—on the side of our veterans! That's why I am an original cosponsor of a comprehensive veterans package. Highlights of this package include:

Under the current budget rules in Congress, veterans' benefits—the money for war service and war injuries are under mandatory spending—that means whatever the need, there has to be the resources. The money for VA hospitals and clinics falls under discretionary spending—that is a certain amount that is set aside, and if the need grows for more, then it may or may not be increased. I say that's wrong, and I am co-sponsoring legislation, the Veterans Health Care Funding Guaranteed Act, that would give veterans what they have been promised—lifelong benefits and health care. This would reduce the national disgrace that leaves 200,000 veterans waiting up to 6 months for an appointment at a Veterans Hospital. We can and must do better and my plan would reduce waiting times for first time doctor appointments to 30 days.

I support an interim disability payment of \$500 per month when claims are not expedited after remand.

I support a full repeal of the concurrent receipt issue. This inequity that prevents disabled military retirees from receiving both their pensions and disability pay is wrong. While we were able to make progress on this issue last year with a partial appeal, more needs to be done to fully repeal this, and I am working on that by signing a discharge petition to bring this bill directly to the floor of the House of Representatives so we can pass it.

I support legislation to phase out the reduction in benefits in the military Survivor Benefit Plan. The benefit to military spouses is not what enrollees were promised and the program is not providing the level of protection military survivors need and deserve.

I also support the Keep Our Promises to America's Military Act that would ensure full and adequate health coverage for all members of the uniformed services by allowing them to participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program.

I support the Military Pay Equity Act that would increase the rates of military basic pay for members of the uniformed services.

I support efforts to improve the Montgomery GI Bill to ensure that higher education and training benefits are adequate.

I support legislation to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

I support the Truth in Recruiting Act that would mandate that members of the Armed Forces shall be entitled to all benefits they were promised when they originally entered the service. Under this bill, each member of the Armed Forces would be given a written statement describing the benefits that will be provided to that person if he or she attains retirement status.

I support the Veteran's Right to Know Act that would require the VA to inform veterans about eligibility for benefits and health-care

services whenever a veteran first applies for any benefit with the VA. It would also help widows and survivors of veterans by informing them at the time of a burial request or application for life insurance proceeds about the full array of benefits available to them.

And recently, I submitted testimony to the VA Cares Commission urging them to expand the Fayetteville VA Medical Center, which currently operates in antiquated facilities. The proposed plan calls for an expansion of the outpatient facility and an additional 110,000 square feet. Because the Fayetteville clinic is such an important facility to veterans in North Carolina, it is important that it remains in the proposed national plan. I have also supported additional VA clinics in my district in Lumberton and Supply, as well as an expansion of the Wilmington VA clinic.

Finally, it is our veterans' sacrifice that has brought true freedoms to this nation! It is a sacrifice I have seen in the hearts and eyes of men and women in uniform around the globe with whom I have visited. It is a sacrifice that does not complain. It is a sacrifice that is respectful. It is a sacrifice that is genuine. And it is a sacrifice that we all must respect.

This is not a partisan issue. It is an American issue. And we must stand shoulder-to-shoulder and respect the spirit, service, and sacrifice of our nation's veterans. Nothing less is acceptable.

HEROISM FROM FIREFIGHTERS, EMERGENCY PERSONNEL AND OTHER FIRE RESPONDERS

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the wildfires that burned across Southern California last week destroyed homes, devastated communities and left 20 dead in its wake. But from this horrific natural disaster, we witnessed heroism and determination from firefighters, emergency personnel and other first responders who put their lives on the line to save others. But we also witnessed true leadership from those directing operations and coordinating efforts from command centers scattered throughout the state.

One of these centers was located in the city of Rancho Cucamonga, which witnessed firsthand the fire's relentless march of destruction. At the helm of the city's strategic operations were Fire Chief Dennis Michael, Police Chief Pete Ortiz and City Manager Jack Lam. All three men, working closely with the mayor and city council, saved thousands of homes and protected just as many lives.

Mayor Alexander and his colleagues on the Rancho Cucamonga city council also deserve high praise for planning and preparing the city for this type of disaster. During the crisis and aftermath that followed, the residents of Rancho Cucamonga have been well served. And under their continued leadership, the community will rebuild.

Mr. Speaker, Rancho Cucamonga is a prosperous city nestled at the base of Southern California's foothill mountains. City leaders have dedicated their lives to ensure residents have a high quality of life, and because of this leadership and experience the community will recover.

KEEP OUR PROMISE TO AMERICA'S MILITARY RETIREES ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues that today I have introduced a revised version of the "Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act" along with Representatives CHET EDWARDS of Texas, JEFF MILLER of Florida, and DUKE CUNNINGHAM of California. This bipartisan bill addresses recent developments and offers more meaningful remedies to the "broken promise" of health care for military retirees.

We have sent thousands of troops to do battle in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are creating a new generation of veterans who have been willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Our government must be accountable for the promises it makes to young men and women who are asked to serve our country in this way.

Over the past year the Courts have laid to rest the question of who is responsible for making good on promises of lifetime health care that were made to young men and women who joined the service during World War II and the Korean eras. Recruits were promised by their own government that if they served a career of 20 years in military service, then they and their dependants would receive health care upon retirement. But while these career soldiers put their lives on the line for our country, the government did not keep its end of the contract.

This past June the U.S. Supreme Court decided not to consider a November 12, 2002 Federal Appeals Court ruling in a suit filed against the government of the United States on behalf of World War II and Korean era military retirees. Retired Air Force Colonel George "Bud" Day, a highly decorated Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, filed a breach of contract suit on behalf of two retired colonels who contended they had been recruited into military service as young men with the promise of lifetime health care upon retirement after serving at least 20 years in uniform.

In 1956, long after Col. Day's clients signed up for military duty, Congress enacted the first laws that defined, and began to limit, the level of health care that would be provided to military retirees. These laws, which took effect on December 7, 1956, made health care available at military facilities conditioned on space availability—in other words, military retirees had to go to the end of the line and wait for health care. Subsequent laws removed them entirely from the military health care system when they became eligible for Medicare, resulting in a dramatic reduction in health care benefits.

The Appeals Court ruled against the plaintiffs on a technicality, arguing that promises by recruiters were invalid because only Congress could authorize military health care, which Congress had not done when the plaintiffs entered the service. But although the retired colonels lost their case on that technicality, I believe they won their moral battle on principle because the Courts have ruled that legally only Congress can make good on promises made to our military retirees.

The Court ruling said, in part, "We cannot readily imagine more sympathetic plaintiffs than the retired officers of World War II and Korean War era involved in this case. They served their country for at least 20 years with the understanding that when they retired they and their dependents would receive full free health care for life. The promise of such health care was made in good faith and relied upon. . . . Perhaps Congress will consider using its legal power to address the moral claims raised by Schism and Reinlie on their own behalf, and indirectly for other affected retirees."

The Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act was originally introduced in 1999 to acknowledge the promises made in good faith to America's military retirees. But now that the Courts have ruled, it is more important than ever that Congress pass this bill. I especially want to commend my friend from Texas, Mr. EDWARDS, for his leadership in introducing H.R. 58 at the beginning of the 108th Congress, and for working with me to bring the Keep Our Promise Act up to date to conform to the court rulings.

Our new bill offers more meaningful restitution for broken promises by waiving both the Part B premium and the late fee for World War II and Korean era military retirees. The new bill also addresses broken promises made to military retirees who joined the service after 1956. Even though laws were on the books beginning in 1956 that defined and limited military retiree health care, the sad truth is that the empty promise of lifetime health care was used as a recruiting tool for many years beyond the scope of Col. Day's case, to those who entered the military after 1956. This is documented in recruiting literature well into the 1990s. We must keep our promises to them, too.

These retirees, mainly from the Vietnam and Persian Gulf eras, qualify for the military health care program known generally as Tricare. Tricare works well for many military retirees but fails to deliver quality health care for others. Some retirees cannot receive care at military bases due to lack of space availability. Base closures have cut off access for many retirees, and too many of them cannot find private doctors who will put up with bureaucratic inefficiencies or low reimbursements they have encountered with Tricare.

I believe strongly that military retirees who are not well served by Tricare deserve an alternative. The Keep Our Promise Act has offered these retirees the option of enrolling in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP); the new version of the bill improves this benefit for military retirees by reimbursing them for expenses they incur under FEHBP that they would not have incurred under Tricare. This provision is cost-neutral since the government would be covering these health care expenses under one program or the other.

The Courts have ruled. It is up to Congress to make good on the promises that were made—and broken—to our military retirees. They are not asking for handouts—they ask only for what was promised to them and what they earned.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2800, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this motion to instruct the conferees for the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill to accept the Senate's higher levels of funding for global HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria programs. The Senate bill provides \$1.7 billion for these programs in fiscal year 2004. When combined with \$700 million in the Labor-Health and Human Services Appropriations bill, this would provide \$2.4 billion for these programs.

Last January, in his State of the Union address, the President made a commitment to the community of nations to provide \$15 billion over five years to wipe out the scourge of HIV/AIDS, which is ravaging the continent of Africa and spreading rapidly throughout the world. Within four months, Congress passed and the President signed H.R. 1298, the U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act, which authorizes \$3 billion per year in funding over the next five years for global HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria treatment and prevention efforts.

Unfortunately, it was not long before the President's State of the Union commitment began looking like another empty promise. In his FY 2004 budget, the President proposed only \$2 billion for global HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria programs, and the Republican congressional leadership refused to fully fund H.R. 1298. The House provided only \$1.4 billion in the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill and \$700 million in the Labor-Health and Human Services Appropriations bill for a total of \$2.1 billion for efforts to fight these devastating diseases.

I have been working for many years to bring attention to the AIDS epidemic, which is destabilizing economies and societies throughout the world. In the last year, over three million people died of AIDS, and five million people were newly infected with this dreadful disease.

The House's proposed appropriation of \$2.1 billion for these widespread epidemics is grossly inadequate and a shameful, broken promise. The Senate's higher figure of \$2.4 billion, while it comes closer to the \$3 billion that the President promised, is still not enough. It is time for the Congress to take this issue seriously. It is time for the United States to keep its promise to the world community of nations and to the victims of these dreadful diseases and their families and friends.

I urge my colleagues to support this motion to instruct, and I urge the conferees to go even further and provide \$3 billion to fully fund global HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria efforts for fiscal year 2004.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES ANDREW
BISHOP FOR ACHIEVING THE
RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Andrew Bishop, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the five years Charles has been involved with scouting, he has earned 31 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, and Den Chief. Charles is also a Tom-Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Charles built a hiking path at the Parkville Nature Sanctuary in Parkville, Missouri. The bridge will create an elevated walking platform that will not spoil the natural landscape.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles Andrew Bishop for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EPHEDRA

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, with the support of my colleagues, Representative JIM GREENWOOD, Representative GREG WALDEN, Representative HENRY WAXMAN and Representative SWEENEY, I rise today to introduce a resolution calling on Health and Human Services Secretary Thompson to remove dietary supplements containing ephedrine alkaloids from the marketplace.

Medical literature indicates that there is a connection between ephedra use and heart attacks, strokes, seizures and death. The American Medical Association has long held that the risks associated with ephedra far outweigh any possible benefits and that the weight of the available clinical evidence supports the removal of dietary supplement products containing ephedra from the market.

In addition, the FDA has received at least 16,500 reports regarding adverse experiences associated with ephedra use and 155 deaths have been conclusively linked to ephedra.

But, after you waded through the reports and understand the statistics, what it comes down to is that individuals are being hurt by what they don't know. Consumers don't know that dietary supplements on store shelves have not been tested for safety. They don't know that the ephedrine/cafeine combination that Baltimore Orioles pitcher Steve Bechler used last spring was taken off of the shelves by the FDA as an over the counter drug, but it continues to be available as a dietary supplement.

I have heard from doctors whose busy days are made more difficult by patients taking die-

tary supplements. One doctor in San Diego wrote:

Ephedra reports have been going on for years. I think it is the responsibility of the FDA to do something about this since the public cannot respond to new information regarding serious side effects reported in medical journals. My patients ask me why these products are on the market and why they are not regulated by the FDA?

Why are these products on the market? Many people would like to know the answer to this question. With the support of my congressional colleagues, I hope we can soon resolve this issue.

I would like to tell you about another person. "Margaret," as I will call her to preserve her privacy, is a 24-year-old woman in California who walks with the assistance of a cane. Two years ago, she suffered a serious stroke that left her on life support and without much hope of survival. But Margaret overcame the odds.

Her long road to recovery included surgeries and countless physical therapy sessions, helping her progress from a wheelchair to a cane. How could someone as young as Margaret suffer such a life-threatening event? According to her doctor, a reaction between her prescribed medication and some over-the-counter diet pills containing ephedra caused her stroke.

I hope the FDA will use its present authority to safeguard our loved ones from the risks of unregulated and untested dietary supplements. Our families depend on it.

**HONORING DAN HEINLEN, OHIO
STATE'S NUMBER ONE ADVOCATE**

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to join with my fellow graduates of the Ohio State University from across the country in honoring Dan Heinlen, who is retiring from his post as head of the Ohio State University Alumni Association.

Dan's outstanding work on behalf of the university and its students, staff and alumni has earned him the unofficial title of Ohio State's number one advocate. As President and CEO of the alumni association for the past 30 years, he has seen the organization grow from 50 thousand members and a budget of less than \$1 million to one that now represents almost 125,000 alumni worldwide with a budget of more than \$6 million.

A 1960 Ohio State graduate, Dan has served in a wide variety of positions under six university presidents. He is currently Secretary of the alumni association's Board of Directors, the Alumni Advisory Council and the Ohio State Student Loan Foundation, Inc. He is an ex officio member of the Ohio State University Foundation Board, its nominating committee, the University Trustees' Government Affairs and Outreach and Engagement Committees, sits on the Academy for Distinguished Teaching Executive Council and chaired the 2002 Ohio Presidents' Inter-University Council Alumni Advocacy Planning Taskforce.

Dan is a pioneer and one of the most respected leaders in the field of alumni work, and is a frequent consultant to alumni associa-

tions across the country. He has also long been active in community and civic affairs.

As Dan and his wife Gelene prepare for an exciting new phase of their lives, I know everyone connected with Ohio State will welcome his continued advice and support.

TRIBUTE TO BOB SKINNER, JR.

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to a fine American, a true gentleman and a good friend of mine, Mr. Bob Skinner, Jr. of Oregon on the occasion of the end of his term as president of the Oregon Cattle-men's Association (OCA). Bob is a fifth generation cattle rancher, raised on the high desert of southeast Oregon. Growing up on his family's ranch outside of the small town of Jordan Valley, Bob learned the virtues of hard work, patience, and dependability. After earning a B.S. degree in business from the College of Idaho, Bob's devotion to his family and friends and his affinity for the ranching way of life drew him home to Jordan Valley and Oregon's vast high desert landscapes.

Through his many efforts over the years, Bob has emerged as a powerful spokesman for family ranchers and the rural way of life both in Oregon and across the nation. During the early 1990's, he led the effort to organize his neighbors in defense of grazing rights along the Owyhee River following an attempt to eliminate grazing as a critical land management tool. In the late 1990's after the Steens Mountain was proposed as a national monument Bob teamed up with other ranchers, community leaders and me to find a solution that would ensure the sustainability of livestock production on the mountain while preserving treasured resources. Bob was critical to the establishment of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area, which arose from legislation I introduced in Congress—one of the most widely applauded measures to affect eastern Oregon in decades.

Mr. Speaker, Bob enjoys a reputation as a clear, cool head in discussions pertaining to the cattle industry. He is effective precisely because of his ability to maintain a levelheaded and respectful demeanor while tenaciously fighting for the interests of family ranchers. Bob's quiet, articulate and effective leadership has earned him the respect of many in Oregon and throughout the West. Bob understands that we can preserve the ranching lifestyle and stand up for the hard-working people who make their living off the land while improving the environment. Ranchers are, in fact, true stewards of the land and have been for many generations.

Bob has been recognized for his leadership with a number of prestigious awards, among them the 1997 Voice of the Industry Award of the Portland Chamber Agriculture Industries Committee and the 2000 Salem Chamber Agriculture Star Award. Over the years, Bob has given back generously to his community by donating his time and energy to various worthy causes. He has served on numerous local boards ranging from the county road board to

the local ambulance board. Bob has also devoted much of his time to the young people of Malheur County as a 4-H leader. He further shares both his love of flying and his Cessna 182 to provide transportation for search and rescue personnel. I am proud to call Bob Skinner, Jr. my good friend and appreciate the opportunity to share his accomplishments over his long and distinguished career as an Oregon cattle rancher. The cattle industry and future generations of farmers and ranchers will continue to benefit from Bob's dedication and willingness to go the extra mile on their behalf.

I would be remiss if I failed to note Bob's remarkable family and all that they mean to him. Bob's father, Bob Skinner, Sr. is an equally impressive man. He resides in Jordan Valley, too, and has a distinguished leadership background similar to his son's. Bob Sr. was a former national committee member of the Public Lands Council and a Past President of Oregon Cattlemen's Association. I am fortunate to call Bob Sr. and his wonderful wife Sara my good friends. Bob Jr.'s wife, Karen, is likewise deserving of considerable praise. She is Bob's partner in success and travels great distances to dedicate herself to her community and industry. Together Bob and Karen have raised four children, Robbin, Kimberly, Silas, and Michael, who have given the Skinners six beloved grandchildren, Nicholas, Kirk and Birch, Kasen, Regann, and Kort. In the summer of 2002, I had the privilege of spending the night in Jordan Valley with the entire family and had a wonderful time getting to know the extended Skinner clan. Together they truly exemplify the dedicated, hard-working and fun-loving American family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this extraordinary man and great American, Bob Skinner, Jr. I would like to thank Bob personally for all he has done for the people of Malheur County, the Second District, and the State of Oregon—especially those Westerners who make their living off the land. I wish Bob, his wife Karen and their entire family all the best in future endeavors.

GOODS MOVEMENT PROJECTS OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE (H.R. 3398)

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of this Congress, legislation that I recently introduced. The Goods Movement Projects of National Economic Significance is legislation that addresses some of our Nation's most pressing transportation and economic needs.

This is the problem:

How freight moves through our communities is an important issue with far reaching implications. Goods movement is the driving force of our Nation's economy. This is a State issue, a Federal issue and it is an issue that directly affects the communities in which we live.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, \$7.4 trillion in goods were moved on the Nation's highway system in 1998, directly employing 10 million people. In 2000, \$706 billion in international merchandise trade flowed

through U.S. seaports and \$646 billion was handled by our railroads.

The volume of goods is projected to grow nationally by 67 percent over the next two decades. This tremendous growth in international trade will continue to place an increasingly heavy burden on our Nation's seaports, trade corridors, highways and rail lines. Traffic congestion, delays, accidents, and freight transportation costs have increased as a result. On a human level—our citizens are spending more and more time stuck in traffic instead of at home with their families.

This is the history:

Over the past 30 years our population has grown, our international trade has increased and our congestion has worsened. For example, in 1970, trade was 12 percent of U.S. gross domestic product (GDP). Today, it is over 25 percent. Since 1970 the population of the U.S. has grown by 40 percent. At the same time, the number of registered vehicles has increased by 100 percent while our road capacity has increased by only 6 percent!

By the year 2020, shipment of containerized cargo moving in and out of the U.S. will increase by more than 350 percent.

By the year 2020, total domestic tonnage of freight carried by all U.S. freight systems will increase by at least 67 percent and international trade will increase by nearly 100 percent.

The transportation reauthorization bill is the perfect opportunity for us to address these pressing transportation infrastructure needs. TEA-21 began to address Goods Movement issues with the creation of the Borders and Corridors Program. But we need to take this need further during this reauthorization bill.

Funding for the Borders and Corridors program was far from adequate. This new legislation encourages communities and regions to develop comprehensive programs and plans that address the goods movement issues of our transportation infrastructure.

This legislation recognizes that we must have a dedicated source of funding to ensure that goods movement and projects of economic significance can be built and that these projects contribute to the overall efficiency of the national transportation infrastructure. As we continue the dialog of reauthorizing the transportation bill, the Goods Movement Projects of National Economic Significance needs to be a part of that conversation.

This is what we must do:

Goods Movement Projects of National Economic Significance will do the following: It will provide \$3 billion per year to a Goods Movement Program.

This legislation separates the Borders and Corridors Program and creates one strong Corridor and Gateway Program. Corridor projects represented 95 percent of the project requests for the Borders and Corridors program.

My legislation focuses our resources on projects and initiatives that promote the safe, secure and efficient mobility of goods and on the immediate and long-term needs of our transportation infrastructure.

This legislation combines and enhances elements of two highly successful transportation programs. This program uses the criteria from the Corridors program and combines it with the fiscal responsibility of the full funding grant agreement of the transit New Starts Program.

Specifically, this program provides \$1.5 billion a year, \$9 billion over the life of the reau-

thorization bill for local communities, States and the Federal Government to plan and build Goods Movement projects. These projects will ultimately enhance local, regional, and State economies, and of course, the national economy.

Finally, \$1.5 billion a year or \$9 billion over the life of the reauthorization bill will be dedicated to funding projects of National Economic Significance.

Throughout the country there are national bottlenecks that congest our communities and slow our national economy down. As we all know from experience, if there is a bottleneck on the highway, traffic several miles away can be affected.

If the type of gridlock that I just described happens and goes unchecked, it will affect an entire region and the entire country and ultimately our economy and the livability of our communities.

These are projects located throughout the country that are "ready to go" major investments in the national transportation infrastructure. By funding these projects we will be stimulating the national economy while investing in the long-term health of our national transportation infrastructure.

This legislation, like the entire transportation reauthorization bill, is an economic stimulus package. For every billion dollars invested in public transportation infrastructure, 47,000 jobs are created.

I ask my colleagues to strongly support this legislation as part of the transportation reauthorization bill. Join me and support The Goods Movement Projects of National Economic Significance.

CRUSADE 4 CHARACTER: CHARACTER FIRST IN HAMBURG

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, this evening in my hometown of Hamburg, NY representatives of all facets of the community will gather to conduct a "Town Meeting" to discuss the progress and future of Character First in Hamburg.

Character First in Hamburg is made up of numerous community leaders, who over the past two years, have put into place activities in support of good character throughout the town with a mission to create a culture of character in Hamburg.

I had hoped to participate as a keynote speaker for this community update where, along with defensive back and special teams player Coy Wire of the Buffalo Bills and Character First President Suzanne McKenney, concerned residents will hear the results of two years of Character First and highlights of the culture of character gaining momentum in the community.

Suzanne McKenney has been tireless in her extensive efforts over the last two years to bring Character initiatives to the business community, civic community, education community, faith community, government community and media community. Working with a well established Board of Directors and Committee Chairs there is a true emphasis upon creating a culture of character in Hamburg.

Coy Wire is an outstanding example to the Hamburg community. His Coy Wire Foundation has been established to promote education and character building with initiatives that encourage spiritual awareness. Coy has shown by example the positive and uplifting impact of an individual's emphasis on character.

Tonight's Town Meeting theme, Crusade 4 Character, underscores the assembled community's belief that the concept of good character has gained widespread support throughout the town.

There literally are signs of character everywhere in the Town of Hamburg. My good friend and restaurateur Mike DiPaolo has initiated character recognition awards for his employees at Illo DiPaolo's restaurant; Our local community newspaper The Sun has shared these employees' stories and other examples of character with the community. Places of worship throughout Hamburg have promoted character traits on bulletin boards, bulletins and newsletters. Character displays have been placed throughout school buildings and there have been dedicated efforts by students and teachers to recognize good character traits. There has been local government support by resolution in the Town of Hamburg and the Villages of Blasdell and Hamburg. The Hamburg Town Board has initiated character recognition at public meetings and last but not least the Civic Community has generated volunteers to assist in the coordination of character initiatives throughout the community.

These are but a few of the many community wide efforts to encourage residents of Hamburg to embrace good character.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with the founders and supporters of Character First as they examine their past and look toward the future. I would encourage my colleagues to raise the awareness of good character in their community. Our nation will only grow stronger when individual citizens embrace character within their own lives.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN OLDER
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stephen Older, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Stephen has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the six years Stephen has been involved with scouting, he has earned 28 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, and Troop Guide. Stephen is also a Tom-Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Stephen designed, implemented, and installed a stone retaining wall at the Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church. He oversaw almost forty scouts and adults during the month long project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Stephen Older for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

VETERANS DAY 2003

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, throughout our history, the freedom we enjoy has faced serious threats time and time again. But because our courageous military personnel were willing to go into battle and risk all they had, our independence and our liberties have remained strongly intact for over 200 years.

It is crucial that we take time to pay tribute to those responsible for our freedoms and I am proud to stand on the House floor today—as Veterans Day draws close—to recognize America's 25 million living veterans and their fallen brothers and sisters.

In Congress, I am honored to serve over 61,000 military veterans from California's 53rd Congressional District. It is truly a privilege to represent so many of America's greatest heroes and to spend so much time working on their behalf.

As I meet with my veterans, I am always amazed with their stories and to learn about their heroics on the battlefield.

Just last month, I heard from a constituent, who as a young man, enlisted in the Army in 1941 and was immediately sent to the South Pacific to fight the Japanese in World War II.

His name is Chief Warrant Officer Michael Campbell, and now 86 years old, he lives in San Diego with his wife, Priscilla. Mr. Campbell's experiences illustrate what millions of our veterans had to endure when they were sent to war.

The Army deployed him to a region where the fighting was extremely intense and the Japanese inflicted severe casualties on our soldiers and took many as prisoners.

Warrant Officer Campbell fought courageously as both a rifleman and a machine gunner in the Philippines, but in 1942, his unit was captured and he too was taken as a Prisoner of War.

This brave young soldier spent the next three years in the harshest conditions you can imagine. He was transferred to several different internment camps and was forced to perform slave labor in a steel mill building supplies for the Japanese Army along side hundreds of other allied soldiers.

By the time the war had come to an end and he was liberated, Warrant Officer Campbell felt lucky to have his life. Hundreds of his brothers who were taken prisoner starved to death or died from other causes.

It took several weeks of medical care in a San Francisco military hospital before Mr. Campbell could recover from what he had experienced.

However—despite what he had endured—this courageous young man quickly reenlisted in the Army and dedicated another 30 years to his Nation. He said he did this because he loved the military and loved serving his country.

It is this kind of amazing resolve that has defeated our enemies and has kept the United States strong. I am pleased for the opportunity to thank Warrant Officer Campbell and his fellow veterans for dedicating their lives to protect our freedoms and our liberties.

Now that we are about to observe another Veterans Day, I ask my colleagues to seriously consider what we owe to them. Are we repaying the debt?

Mr./Madam Speaker, I strongly believe we could improve our treatment of our greatest heroes.

Just recently, we have had the opportunity to increase funding for Veterans' Affairs health care. Unfortunately, though veterans nationwide expressed their strong support, we failed to provide VA health care with the increase it needs. We all know in this body that the health care system veterans rely upon will go under funded in 2004 because we did not act properly.

We currently have another opportunity before us, Mr./Madam Speaker, to end what has come to be known as the Disabled Veterans Tax. I remain hopeful that during the 108th Congress, we can pass strong concurrent receipt legislation and provide the veterans who have made the most unimaginable sacrifices with both the disability and retirement payments they earned and deserve.

I am afraid that any proposal that provides concurrent payments to only a small portion of veterans is not good enough. I ask my colleagues to speak directly to their veterans about this issue and let them decide what kind of legislation will be fair for their brothers and sisters.

Finally, Mr./Madam Speaker, I would just like to take a moment to reiterate my dedication to our Nation's retired military personnel. We can never take for granted the sacrifices our brave men and women in uniform have made on our behalf.

HONORING DALE K. OUZTS FOR
HIS CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Dale K. Ouzts for a legacy of distinguished service to The Ohio State University and the people of Ohio. Dale is retiring after 24 years at Ohio State, including 23 as General Manager of the WOSU Stations and Director of The Ohio State University Telecommunication Center. His hard work, enthusiasm, and leadership have contributed immensely to the quality of life in Central Ohio.

Dale's accomplishments place him high atop the list of Who's Who in public broadcasting. Notable undertakings during his long career include the Chairmanship of the Board of Directors of National Public Radio, a position as the Executive Vice President and General Manager of KPTS-TV in Wichita, Kansas, a lecturer at the Beijing Broadcasting Institute in Beijing, China, and a consultant for the U.S. Information Agency to help Romanian broadcasters transition to Capitalism.

Perhaps more impressive than Dale's lengthy résumé of achievements is the impact his hard work and service have had in our

community. As the general manager of the WOSU stations, Dale was responsible for the addition of more than four new stations and the expansion of the listening area. He is also the founding member and first Board President of the Ohio Public Broadcasting Alliance and Public Radio in Mid-America. Dale is a board member and past president of the Ohio Educational Television Stations and Ohio Public Radio. He has helped to educate tomorrow's leaders as a professor of Communications and Journalism at The Ohio State University. Finally, Dale is a co-founder and past Chairman of Kids Voting Ohio, a past president of the Dublin/Worthington Rotary Club, and a member of the Columbus Zoo Board.

Dale's work has been honored at the highest levels of the industry. His commendations include National Public Radio's highest award for distinguished service, the Edward Elson Award. His contributions to broadcasting have also been recognized by Public Radio in Mid-America, the National Black Programming Consortium, the International Dictionary of Distinguished Leadership, and the Ohio Educational Broadcasting Association.

Mr. Speaker, Dale Ouzts has set a standard for professional achievement and community involvement that few can match. I'm proud to join his family, friends and others in our community in thanking him for his many years of exemplary service.

TRIBUTE TO GLEN STONEBRINK

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Glen Stonebrink, on the occasion of his retirement. During his long and distinguished career, Glen has committed his energy and efforts to making both his community and the State of Oregon better places to live. Glen's accomplishments range from educating our young people to advocating on behalf of rural Americans, two pursuits that he has approached with selfless dedication. His commitment, spirit and devotion to his fellow citizens have been his most defining trait over the years, and I am proud to call Glen and his wonderful wife, Loydee, my friends.

As a high school teacher at Yamhill Carlton High School and then as a college professor at Linfield College, Glen devoted his energy and talent to training a new generation of Oregonians in math, physics, and computer science. It is perhaps Glen's dedication and devotion to the young people he instructed that will serve as his most enduring legacy.

As many of my colleagues know, the West is known for its stunning natural beauty, fertile soil and lush timberlands. We owe a debt of gratitude to those individuals who devote themselves to protecting our national treasures while preserving the farming and ranching way of life for future generations. Growing up on his family's wheat and cattle ranch in the high country of Wallowa County, Glen learned firsthand the importance of balancing these interests while working to protect the values of rural Oregonians.

Glen's real world understanding and education in natural resource issues led to his appointment under both the Reagan and Bush

Administrations as the State Executive Director for the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service, now known as the Farm Service Agency. In this prestigious position he had the opportunity to help preserve and promote American agriculture while working with farmers to implement programs to conserve land and water resources.

After his term as State Executive Director of the Oregon Farm Services Agency, Glen brought his knowledge of the West to Washington, D.C., where he worked as the Legislative Director for Congresswoman Helen Chenoweth of Idaho. During his tenure working on Capitol Hill, my staff worked closely with him on a number of issues impacting the cattle and ranching industry.

For the last six years, Glen has served as the Executive Director of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, working to protect the ranching way of life. Glen has been a tireless advocate for rural issues ranging from private property rights to water rights. He is also called upon frequently to advise groups on natural resource issues and provide assistance in working with the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Glen Stonebrink on the many achievements that mark his long and impressive career. I am grateful for all that he has done on behalf of the people of Oregon and the people of the rural West. I wish Glen, Loydee and their entire family all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING MR. ED SEDER ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, every community has certain individuals who define it. These are people who, by virtue of their character and commitment, make the community a better place in which to live and work.

In my district, Connecticut's Second District, in the city of Norwich, Ed Seder is such an individual. Ed recently celebrated his 90th birthday. I have been friends with Ed for many years. For decades he has been a pillar in the Norwich business community and he represents the city's rich industrial past.

Ed projects a vibrant energy and continues to be involved with the community, proving that although we can't help growing older we don't have to get old. As an old saying informs us, "You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake." Ed is not quite there yet.

The Seder family owns the second oldest family business still in existence in Norwich—Shetucket Paper and Supply. The business was established in 1918 and Ed still works there. Ed has been active in the community for many years—he served on the city school board and in the 1960s he was a member of the Norwich City Council.

Throughout his adult life he has had the support and love of his wonderful wife Lillian and their three children.

How do folks keep a business thriving for so many years? The answer is simple—they work at it. That's the old-fashioned concept of hard work that made America what it is today—a

free and flourishing nation that draws people with dreams and aspirations from all over the world.

Ed Seder and his family have achieved because they worked at it. He's the kind of person who found solutions to problems because he looked for them and then he worked at them. When Ed Seder tells you something, you can take it to the bank.

If you think about what you ought to do for other people, your character will take care of itself. Ed Seder is a man of character. He has spent his lifetime working for and in his community. As a result, Norwich, Connecticut is a better place to live, work and raise a family thanks to Ed Seder. Happy birthday, Ed.

PUBLIC SAFETY INTEROPERABILITY: CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Ms. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Chairman SHAYS and Ranking Member KUCINICH for calling this important hearing on Public Safety Interoperability. Earlier this year, I met with Fire Stations and Police Departments in my district. Each one of them highlighted the need for a communications system that would allow law enforcement, fire fighters, and other first responders to talk to one another.

To this end, the Los Angeles County Fire Department with minimal resources and funds initiated an interoperability communications pilot program, known as the Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communication System (LARTCS). This system enables various agencies to directly speak to another on one channel for both short-term and long-term incidents.

The pilot program only serves a portion of the County, while the Los Angeles County Fire Department provides services to 58 municipalities and spans a 3,000-mile radius. This includes dense, rural, and remote suburban areas.

The LARTCS has already proven to be a success, particularly in the southern California wildfires. According to the Los Angeles County Assistant Fire Chief, Eric Ekeberg, "the fires hit the region really hard, but it could have been a lot worse if the communication system was not in place."

I commend the foresight and dedication of the Los Angeles County Fire Department and all participating agencies that includes law enforcement, EMS, and other first responders for establishing this pilot program. Amazingly, this system was put in with minimal funds.

This successful pilot program proves that Congress needs to do more to fund interoperability systems, whether it is through additional FEMA grants or cutting the red tape, so that the first responders of LA County, and multiple counties throughout California and the nation, can talk to one another.

We need to do more to protect our public servants as well as the general population. Therefore, I look forward to the testimonies of the witnesses who might shed some light on this salient issue, not just for first responders, but all Americans.

Again, I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for holding this very important hearing.

**TRIBUTE TO ALAMEDA COUNTY
VETERANS, 50TH ANNUAL VET-
ERANS DAY PARADE**

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Veterans Day on November 11, 2003 and to pay tribute to the veterans in Alameda County, California. As we pause to remember the valiant men and women who have nobly served our country, I join the Alameda County Veterans' Affairs Commission and the city of Hayward to commemorate Alameda County's 50th Annual Veterans Day Parade.

The Alameda County Veterans' Affairs Commission is a diverse group of men and women who stand together with the same discipline and patriotism and the same values and uncommon valor that they fostered in the battles they fought for our nation. Last year's program, Honoring All Who Served, stated, "as long as there are men and women in uniform, stationed across the world, there will be a body of veterans' organizations defending and upholding the rights of our fighting men and women." I commend their tireless efforts.

This year, the Commission has again taken the charge to prepare and promote the annual Veterans Day Parade ceremonies. I join them in honoring our veterans and in dedication to world peace.

VETERANS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, as we approach our annual celebration of Veteran's Day, this year we do so in the knowledge that our brave fighting men and women and those who support their efforts, are in the field in Iraq, in Afghanistan and in Guantanamo Bay, right now in defense of our country and our freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, all of our veterans have served with distinction and deserve the benefits that they have earned. That's why it is important that we invest in their health care and we ensure there is more than enough funding for the VA clinics and hospitals across the country so that our veterans of wars past and wars present can be well cared for.

Mr. Speaker, that is why our veterans deserve to have their tax burdens lifted, including the disabled veterans tax. They deserve to enjoy tax relief such as the child tax credit and they deserve to have their pay increased especially at this time, when they are being asked to sacrifice so much.

Mr. Speaker, the veterans of the U.S. territories, who have served in many wars with distinction, despite not being able to vote for president and not having voting representation in Congress, are also in need of increased health benefits, tax relief and access to business and other opportunities.

Over 200 soldiers from my district are currently serving in the Middle East, with many more in the National Guard and Reserve who have been called up to serve their country at different places across the world at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to salute the veterans from my district who are being honored this weekend and who have served in the major conflicts of our time from World War II to Vietnam to the first Persian Gulf . . . they include Gloria Bell, Peter Thurland, Juan Cruz, Earl Morris, Olaf Jackson, Evelyn Crittenden, Agnes Day Henry, Edgar Iles, Nevlin Williams and Otto Tranberg.

Mr. Speaker, this year, it is important that our soldiers in the field, our veterans and their families all know that we appreciate their sacrifice and that this body pledges to support them in the best way that we possibly can.

HONORING JOYCE McCULLUM

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great woman and public educator, Ms. Joyce McCullum, for her 36 years of dedicated educational service to the community. Today, Ms. McCullum retires from her position as a teacher and administrator in the Oakland Unified School District in California.

B. Joyce Garrett McCullum was born to Willie Garrett and Rosa M. Jones in Pineland, Texas. She graduated from Vernon High School in Leesville, Louisiana, and earned a bachelor's degree in vocal music education from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She was then appointed to a Ford Foundation Fellowship and received a master's degree in music from Holy Names College in Oakland, California.

In September, 1967, Joyce McCullum began her educational career with the Oakland Public Schools as a teacher at Lockwood Elementary School, and continued at Hoover Jr. High, Lowell Jr. High, Roosevelt Jr. High, and Marcus A. Foster Middle School. She served as an administrator at Marcus Foster Middle School, Hoover Elementary School, E. Morris Cox Elementary, and then taught some more at Havenscourt Jr. High and Verdess R. Carter Middle School.

Ms. McCullum was predeceased by the late Reverend James T. McCullum, Sr., Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church for 32 years. She is also the proud stepmother of James T. McCullum, Jr., and grandmother of four grandchildren, and a surrogate mother to many. Joyce has been Director of Youth at New Hope Baptist Church, part of the Home and Foreign Mission District Association, and youth counselor for the California State Baptist Convention, Inc. Youth and Young Adult Auxiliary.

She has been actively involved in community services, having served as a life member of the NAACP, as President of the Oakland Alliance of Black School Educators, a life member of the National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM) and the Golden Gate Branch of NANM. She is also a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Nu Omega Chapter, the Oakland Education Association, United Administrators of Oakland, and the Oakland Music Educators Association.

Finally, as we honor Ms. McCullum today, I want to thank her for being an exemplary role model, administrator, and teacher. I take great pride in joining the students of Oakland, Ms. McCullum's family, friends and colleagues to recognize and salute the accomplishments and contributions of B. Joyce Garret McCullum and wish her an exciting and gratifying retirement.

**RECOGNIZING THOMAS M. REEDY
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT**

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas M. Reedy, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 175, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the seven years Thomas has been involved with scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Troop-Patrol Leader and Instructor. Thomas is also a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and participated in High Adventure.

For his Eagle Scout project, Thomas built, stained, and installed sturdy oak bunk ladders for the Rotary Camp in Lee's Summit, Missouri, where Thomas went on his first official campout as a Boy Scout.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Thomas Reedy for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on November 4, on rollcall vote No. 603, H. Con. Res. 94, Sense of Congress that community inclusion and enhanced lives for individuals with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities is at serious risk because of the crisis in recruiting and retaining direct support professionals which impedes availability of a stable workforce; I was detained in my district on official business, and I would have voted "aye."

On November 4, on rollcall vote No. 602, H. Con. Res. 176, Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Planning Week; I was detained in my district on official business, and I would have voted "aye."

On November 5, on rollcall vote No. 609, H.R. 3365, Fallen Patriots Tax Relief Act; I was detained in my district on official business, and I would have voted "aye."

On November 5, on rollcall vote No. 608, H.R. 3214, Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology Act; I was detained in my district on official business, and I would have voted "aye."

On November 5, on rollcall vote No. 607, H.R. 2620, Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003; I was detained in my district on official business, and I would have voted "aye."

On November 5, on rollcall vote No. 606, H.R. 2559, Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2004; I was detained in my district on official business, and I would have voted "aye."

On November 5, on rollcall vote No. 605, H.J. Res. 76, Further continuing appropriations for FY 2004, and for other purposes; I was detained in my district on official business, and I would have voted "aye."

On November 5, on rollcall vote No. 604, H.R. 2443, DeFAZIO of Oregon Amendment; I was detained in my district on official business, and I would have voted "aye."

IN HONOR OF CIVICALLY-CONSCIOUS LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence and a passionate believer in education as the cornerstone of democracy, once wrote, "If a nation expects to be both ignorant and free in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be." James Madison, known as the "father" of the Constitution, wrote, "A well-instructed people alone can be permanently a free people."

Conscientious Americans in our private sector, some of whom are in my congressional district, have heeded this message of Jefferson and Madison. They have joined the effort of the Committee for Citizen Awareness (CCA), a not-for-profit organization that provides free award winning civic videotapes to all our high schools, community colleges, community access cable television stations and to many libraries across the country. Over 30 million students and countless others have seen these civic videotapes.

Some of our country's most notable citizens are participating in this effort. They include Secretary of State Colin Powell, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Constitutional author Caroline Kennedy, and CBS chief Washington correspondent and anchor of Face the Nation Bob Schieffer, to name a few.

We are all indebted to the Americans in our private sector who are undertaking this important civic effort. I think the hundreds of my colleagues who have also personally participated in this civic activity would agree that our country's civic knowledge and, as a result, our freedom has been strengthened by the work of the CCA and the following contributing organizations:

Tara Houser, Public Relations Manager of Boyd Collection, Ltd.; Dr. Millicent M. Valek, President of Brazosport College; Thomas Schmidt, President of Carl Sandburg College; J. Anthony Rose, President and CEO of CATAWBA Valley Hospital Medical Center; Dr. Mark John Tierno, President of Cazenovia College; Dr. David H. Roe, President of Central College; Dr. Larry Litecky, President of Century Community and Technical College; Larry Damm, General Manager of Cessna Employees Credit Union; Mi-

chael S. Boggs, CEO of Coliseum Health System; Ulis Williams, President of Compton Community College; Russ Owen, President—Global Infrastructure Services of Computer Sciences Corporation; Michael G. Morris, Chairman, President, and CEO of Connecticut Light & Power Company; Gloria M. Harrison, President of Crafton Hills College; Ricky D. Napper, President and CEO of Crittenden Health Systems; Michael B. Kitchen, President and CEO of CUNA Mutual Group; William D. Petasnick, President and CEO of Froedtert and Community Health; Dana Tindall, Senior Vice President, Legal, Regulatory and Government Affairs of GCI Communications; Bob Richard, Lexan Operations Manager of GE Plastics—Mount Vernon; Jeffrey L. Bleustein, Chairman and CEO of Harley-Davidson, Inc.; Scott Kaulukukui, Vice President of Marketing of HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union; Dr. Darnell Cole, President of Milwaukee Area Technical College; Dr. Julio S. Leon, President of Missouri Southern States College; Dr. Earl S. Richardson, President of Morgan State University; Marvin R. O'Quinn, Executive Vice President of the Western Region of Morristown Memorial Hospital;

Harold E. Anderson, President and CEO of Moses Taylor Hospital; The Reverend Dr. Samuel Berry McKinney, Pastor Emeritus and Louise J. McKinney of Mount Zion Baptist Church of Seattle; Dr. Dennis Joslin, President, Nebraska Methodist College of Nebraska Methodist Hospital; Dr. Rosalie M. Mirenda, President of Neumann College; Fred W. Beaufait, President of New York City College of Technology; Seymour Sternberg, Chairman, President, and CEO of New York Life Insurance; Mark C. Anderson, President of Niagara Area Credit Union; Tom Rowland, Executive Vice President and General Manager of North Central Telephone Coop; Kay Stewart, President of North East Texas Credit Union; John A. Noer of Northern States Power Co. Combustion and Hydrogeneration; Dan DiMicco, President and CEO of Nucor Corporation; Daniel R. Moss, President and CEO of Oakland Catholic Credit Union; Marvin R. O'Quinn, Executive Vice President of the Western Region of Overlook Hospital; Dr. Edward Tomesko, Campus Executive Officer of Penn State Delaware County;

Dr. Davie Jane Gilmour, President of Pennsylvania College of Technology; J. Steven Whisler, CEO of Phelps Dodge Corporation; Dr. E. Grace Pilot, Co-Founder of Pilot Catastrophe Services, Inc.; Robert "Buzz" W. Trafford, Managing Partner of Porter Wright Morris & Arthur; William Cavanaugh, President and CEO of Progress Energy; Robert F. Bregler, Executive Vice President of Publix Employees Federal Credit Union; Dr. Rodney D. Smith, President of Ramapo College of New Jersey; Hal Chilton, CEO of Redding Medical Center; Alan C. Henderson, President and CEO of Rehab Care Group; Steven L. Henderson, CEO of Rice Medical Center; Jeff H. Farver, President and CEO of San Antonio Federal Credit Union; Steven Fellows, President of San Gabriel Valley Medical Center; Richard Villareal, Financial Education Representative of San Mateo Credit Union; Richard P. Meduski, CEO of Savings Bank of Manchester; Dr. Rick Rogers, President of Shelton State Community College;

Deborah A. Trapani, President and CEO of Sierra Point Credit Union; Jonathan J. Lerner, Esquire of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom; Ronald S. Owen, CEO of Southeast Alabama Medical Center; Dr. Barbara J. Crittenden, President of Southwestern Community College; Dr. Thomas E. Hines, President of Spoon River College; Peter E. Capobianco, President and CEO of St. Mary's Hospital at Amsterdam, NY; John Maher, CEO of St. Vincent's; Fred J. Whyte,

President of Stihl Inc.; Richard N. Fine, M.D., Pediatrics Chairman of Stony Brook University Hospital; Michael J. Kaczinski, President/CEO of Sun East Federal Credit Union; Curt A. Cecala, CEO of TCT Federal Credit Union;

Mr. Robert Allen, President and CEO of Teachers Federal Credit Union; Betty G. Hobbs, President and CEO of Tennessee Teachers Credit Union; Dr. Priscilla D. Slade, President of Texas Southern University; Charles V. Wait, Chairman, President and CEO of The Adirondack Trust Company; Bill Yoh, Regional President of The Day & Zimmermann Group, Inc.; William S. Stavropoulos, Chairman of The Dow Chemical Company; Jim Yates, Vice President and General Manager of The Gas Company of Hawaii; Stephen S. Mills, President and CEO of The New York Hospital Queens; Mike Pierce, CEO of TLC Federal Credit Union; Robert P. Randall, President and CEO of TRACO; Bill Leaver, President and CEO of Trinity Medical Center; John Gisler, President and CEO of Twin City Co-ops Federal Credit Union; C. Lance Terry, Senior Vice President of TXU Electric and Gas; Susan V. Juris, Vice President of University Hospitals Home Care Services, Inc.; Gwen Stafford, Vice President of Corporate Services of University Medical Center; Dr. M.R.C. Greenwood, Chancellor of University of California—Santa Cruz; Dr. Nancy Cantor, Chancellor of University of Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign; Ron Applbaum, President of University of Southern Colorado;

Loren W. Crabtree, Provost of University of Tennessee @ Knoxville; William S. Stavropoulos, Chairman, President and CEO of The Dow Chemical Company; Harry R. Jacobson, M.D., Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs of Vanderbilt University Medical Center; Hubert H. Hoosman, Jr., President and CEO of Vantage Credit Union; Lee D. Meyer, President of Variform Inc; Jane G. Watkins, President and CEO of Virginia Credit Union, Inc.; Frank E. Berrish, President and CEO of Visions Federal Credit Union; Sara Sweet, Director of Corporate Communications of Watson Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Timothy R. Thyreen, President of Waynesburg College; Larry Weyers, President and CEO of WPS Resource Corporation; Robert Essner, President and CEO of Wyeth; Borgess Health Alliance, Inc.; Community & Mission Hospitals of Huntington Park; Cornell Companies, Inc.; Dana Corporation; East Jefferson General Hospital; Fluor Corporation; Fort Bliss Federal Credit Union;

Franklin Regional Medical Center; Goodrich Company; Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center; Household International; Jamestown College; Kishwaukee Community Hospital; Lower Bucks Hospital; Memorial Hermann Healthcare System; Midway Hospital Medical Center; Mount Sinai School of Medicine; Murray State College; North Central Michigan College; Paradise Valley Hospital/Vanguard Health Systems; Porter Adventist Hospital; Ripon College; Rockwell Automation—Power Systems; Royal Ordnance North America, Inc.; ServiceMaster; Sharp Memorial Hospitals; South Texas Health System; Southern Regional Health System; Southwest General Hospital; Spalding University; St. Anthony Hospital; State University of New York at Buffalo; Syngenta Crop Protection; The Ohio State University—Lima; Tillamook People's Utility District; University of Alabama at Birmingham; University of Wisconsin—La Crosse; Western Michigan University; Whittier Hospital Medical Center.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL BIBLE
WEEK

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today as the House co-chairman of National Bible Week that will take place in 2003 during the week of November 23–30. The National Bible Association is organizing nationwide recognition of the importance of the Bible in our daily lives during this week. I would like to speak briefly about the importance of the Bible in the history of our nation, and the foundation of the government of the United States of America.

George Washington, our first President wrote:

It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible. Of all of the dispositions and habits that lead to political prosperity, our religion and morality are the indispensable supporters. Let us with caution indulge the supposition, that is, the notion or idea, that morality can be maintained without religion. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that our national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

John Adams, our second President, was also President of the American Bible Society and this is what he said:

We have no government armed with the power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and true religion.

And now listen to these words of John Adams:

Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.

John Quincy Adams, son of John Adams, also served as President of the American Bible Society. He told his friends that he valued his presidency of the American Bible Society above his presidency of the United States. These are his words:

The highest glory of the American revolution was this. It connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity. From the day of the declaration, they, that is, the founders were bound by the laws of God which they all acknowledged as their rules of conduct.

In the 1920's, President Calvin Coolidge said:

America seeks no empires built on blood and forces. She cherishes no purpose save to merit the favor of Almighty God.

He later wrote,

The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country.

The Bible has come up many times in cases before the Supreme Court. In 1811, there was a case the People v. Ruggles. This was a person who had publicly slandered the Bible. This case got to the Supreme Court and this is what they said:

You have attacked the Bible. In attacking the Bible, you have attacked Jesus Christ. In attacking Jesus Christ, you have attacked

the roots of our Nation. Whatever strikes at the root of Christianity manifests itself in the dissolving of our civil government.

In 1845, there was a case *Vida v. Gerrand*. This was a lady teacher who was teaching morality without using the Bible. I have no idea how that case got to the Supreme Court, but it did, and this is what they said, "Why not use the Bible?" This is the Supreme Court:

Why not use the Bible, especially the New Testament? It should be read and taught as a divine revelation in the schools. Where can the purest principles of morality be learned so clearly and so perfectly as from the New Testament?

Consistent with this philosophy, the Continental Congress bought 20,000 Bibles to distribute to their new citizens, and for 100 years, at the beginning of our country, this Congress appropriated money to send missionaries to the American Indians.

The Bible has been an important foundation of learning in our schools. The Congress in 1854 made this statement about our schools. It said:

The Congress of the United States recommends and approves the Holy Bible for use in our schools.

Consistent with that, it was used.

The New England Primer was used for over 200 years. Notice how they taught the alphabet:

A. A wise son makes a glad father but a foolish son is heaviness to his mother.

B. Better is little with the fear of the Lord than abundance apart from him.

C. Come unto Christ, all you who are weary and heavily laden.

D. Do not do the abominable thing, which I hate, sayeth the Lord.

E. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.

The "McGuffey Reader," was used for 100 years. Not too many years ago it was brought back to some of our schools when for a number of years the achievement scores had considerably dropped and we graduated over 1 million people who literally could not read their high school diplomas, and, out of desperation, they brought the "McGuffey Reader" back to some of the schools, because when we had that in our schools, the graduates could read when they graduated from school.

This is what the author says about The "McGuffey Reader":

The Christian religion is the religion of our country. From it derived our notions on the character of God and on the great moral Governor of the universe. On its doctrines are founded the peculiarities of our free institutions. From no source has the author drawn more conspicuously than from the sacred scriptures. For all of these extractions from the Bible I make no apology.

There has been a determined movement over the last 50 years to denounce the Bible as a document that is irrelevant in our modern society. Worse than irrelevant, there has been a concerted effort which has succeeded in removing the Bible and even prayer from schools on the grounds that it is dangerous and offensive.

A couple of years ago a young woman in a high school in Oklahoma wrote this poem as a new school prayer:

Now I sit me down in school

Where praying is against the rule.

For this great nation under God,

Finds mention of him very odd.

If scripture now the class recites

It violates the Bill of Rights.

Any time my head I bow

Becomes a Federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange, or green.

That's no offense; it's a freedom scene.

The law is specific, the law is precise.

Only prayers spoken out loud are serious vice.

For praying in a public hall

Might offend someone who has no faith at all.

In silence alone we must meditate,

God's name is prohibited by the State.

We are allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,

And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.

They have outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.

To quote the Good Book makes me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,

And the "unwed daddy" our Senior King.

It is inappropriate to teach right from wrong.

We are taught that such 'judgments' do not belong.

We can get our condoms and birth controls,

Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles.

But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,

No word of God must reach this crowd.

It is scary here I must confess,

When chaos reigns the school's a mess.

So Lord, this silent plea I make:

Should I be shot, my soul please take.

The Bible is as relevant today as it has been since it was written for very simple reasons. The Bible is the word of God for Jews and Christians around the world. Every American should be taught to understand that the foundations of our government are rooted in the moral teachings of the Bible. For people of all faiths, the Bible offers universal ethical guidelines of right and wrong, good and bad and simple rules to follow to lead a virtuous life and establish a just society.

RECOGNIZING TRAVIS A. LUETHJE
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Travis A. Luethje, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 175, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Travis has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the eight years Travis has been involved with scouting, he has earned 29 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Assistant Patrol Leader, Scribe, and Chaplain Aid. Travis has also participated in High Adventure and is a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Travis re-striped the parking lot of St. Peter United Methodist Church, including handicap spaces and new turning lanes.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Travis A. Luethje for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE COLORADO
TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the exceptional endeavors and notable undertakings of an extraordinary professional membership organization in the State of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this outstanding association for its leadership in government and the legal community and for its enduring service to the people of our state. It is to commend this distinguished organization that I rise to honor the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

The Colorado Trial Lawyers Association (CTLA) has been on the front lines of progress since its inception and has proven to be a powerful force in transforming the legal landscape of our state. CTLA's statement of purpose merits mention. "The Colorado Trial Lawyers Association is comprised of Colorado trial lawyers who are committed to the protection and advancement of individuals rights and to the advancement of trial advocacy skills, high ethical standards and professionalism in the ongoing effort to preserve and improve the American system of jurisprudence." Within this unequivocal statement lies the touchstone that has guided CTLA's work with government and its immeasurable contribution to the legal profession in Colorado.

For the last half-century, CTLA and its members have been resolute in their commitment to protecting the health, safety and welfare of Colorado consumers. It has been active in educating the public concerning the efficacy of individual rights and the pivotal role of the trial lawyer in protecting those rights. CTLA has recognized, and continues to recognize, that it has a public trust of considerable magnitude. Through its legislative advocacy, CTLA has provided vital information and invaluable counsel to Members of the Colorado General Assembly and the United States Congress on issues that protect consumers and impact our civil justice system. Due in no small part to CTLA's advocacy, many detrimental legislative proposals have been defeated, particularly those that would have prevented or hindered access to the courts for redress of grievances.

Trial advocacy is facing considerable change, technological and otherwise. CTLA has given the legal profession inestimable service through its outstanding legal education programs by providing state-of-the-art instruction concerning law, ethics and professional conduct for members and non-members alike. CTLA has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to those in need. Countless members have provided pro-bono legal aid, including free legal assistance to the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11 through the Trial Lawyers Care Program. My membership in CTLA has had a profound impact on my career in the practice of law and public service.

Please join me in commending the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. It is leadership, advocacy and commitment of the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association that continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all Americans.

IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION IS A
NOBLE CAUSE THAT MUST NOT
FAIL

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I recommend to my colleagues the following column by the distinguished commentator Morton M. Kondracke in the November 6 edition of Roll Call. Mr. Kondracke has eloquently stated the stakes facing all of us in Iraq. His incisive and knowledgeable commentary should be read by all.

[From Roll Call, Nov. 6, 2003]

IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION IS A NOBLE CAUSE
THAT MUSTN'T FAIL

(By Morton M. Kondracke)

In January 1946, seven months after V-E Day, the eminent novelist John DosPassos wrote after a trip to Europe that U.S. servicemen were telling him, "We've lost the peace. We can't make it stick."

In an article in Life magazine, he wrote that "A tour of the beaten-up cities of Europe . . . is a mighty sobering experience. Europeans, friend and foe alike, look you accusingly in the face and tell how bitterly they are disappointed in you as an American."

"They cite the evolution of the word 'liberation.' Before the Normandy landings, it meant to be freed from the tyranny of the Nazis. Now it stands in the minds of the civilians for one thing: looting."

If this sounds familiar in the aftermath of the Iraq war, it goes on: "Instead of coming in with a bold plan of relief and reconstruction, we came in full of evasions and apologies. . . . We have swept away Hitlerism, but a great many Europeans feel that the cure has been worse than the disease."

It was another year after this article was written before Secretary of State George Marshall delivered his celebrated speech at Harvard University launching the Marshall Plan for European relief.

By contrast, Congress gave final approval this week, six months after the Iraq war, to the contemporary version of the Marshall Plan: the \$20 billion downpayment on Iraqi reconstruction. At that, reconstruction was already under way.

We succeeded grandly in Europe in one of the most generous and idealistic—and also pragmatic—undertakings in American history.

Prior to America's making the effort, DosPassos noted, Winston Churchill made a speech in which he warned Americans, "You must be prepared for further efforts of mind and body and further sacrifices to great causes, if you are not to fall back into the rut of inertia, the confusion of aim and the craven fear of being great."

It's sad that we don't have a Churchill around to affirm the morality of what America is doing in Iraq: We have toppled a monstrous dictator and we are trying to rebuild his shattered country, turn it into a democracy and make it an example to a region that knows only authoritarianism and despotism.

It is a noble cause that President Bush has undertaken. His adversaries at home and abroad say that he got us into it by deception, but what could possibly have been his motive?

The "war for oil" charge is simply laughable. The "war for politics" charge—that it was done to help Republicans—is outrageous.

The "war for ideology" analysis makes more sense—i.e., that "neo-conservatives" in Bush's administration wanted to topple Sad-

dam Hussein from Day One. But why did they want to do so, if they didn't think he represented a menace to U.S. security?

Bush's Democratic foes are charging that Bush trumped up evidence of Hussein's possession of weapons of mass destruction. But the fact is that every intelligence service in the world believed he had them—how else could Bush have won a unanimous vote at the U.N. Security Council to give Hussein one final chance to account for them?

How and why the United States got into the war in the first place will be hashed out for the rest of this presidential campaign and beyond, but the important thing now is to win the peace.

Whatever their differences on whether the war should have been fought or how the peace is being won, even Bush's harshest foes ought to admit that what he's undertaking is an idealistic enterprise.

If Democrats are proud of America's intervention in Kosovo and remorseful of our failure to intervene to prevent genocide in Rwanda, how can they not support an effort to establish democracy in Iraq?

Moreover, what Bush is doing is not only Wilsonian, it's also pragmatic. In 1946, the danger was that if America failed in Europe, Russia would take over. In 2003, if the United States fails, Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden succeed.

There's no question that the effort is going to be difficult—or even that Bush miscalculated the difficulties and didn't plan well enough for them.

But contrary to the charge that he "has no plan," he plainly does now. As stated by U.S. Iraq Administrator Paul Bremer, it is to (1) "establish a secure environment by taking direct action against terrorists . . . and restore urgent and essential services to the country, (2) expand international cooperation in the security and reconstruction and (3) accelerate the orderly transition to self-government by the Iraqis."

Can this be brought off? The jury is very much out. Our forces and Iraqis who side with us are under constant attack, at least in Sunni-dominated areas of the country. The international community—ever so solicitous of Iraqi citizens' welfare under economic sanctions—either wants us to fail or has been scared off by bombings.

The vast majority of Iraqis clearly want stability and self-rule. For our sake and for theirs, it's imperative that we stay the course and do this right—and not allow vicious killers to force us out too early.

It would be a catastrophe, both for the Iraqis who are working with us and for our standing in the world, if this effort were to fail. Fortunately, polls indicate that most Americans want to stay the course. It's time for Bush's critics to quit just carping and contribute constructive ideas on how to make this effort succeed. If it does, all of us will be very proud.

VETERAN'S DAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Veterans' Day, it is fitting and proper that we honor an African-American sailor who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

I am planning to introduce legislation soon that calls for awarding the Congressional Medal of Honor to Dorie Miller posthumously for his heroic actions during World War Two.

This recognition is long overdue for a man who served his country with distinction and valor during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Dorie Miller is just one example of African-American war heroes and veterans who have gone beyond and above the call of duty to persevere freedom's full measure, although they themselves were denied it in many quarters at home.

As Americans, we owe a debt of gratitude to our veterans. It is our duty to ensure that they receive the support they need from the country they so diligently served.

As we daily witness the courageous and professional efforts of our armed forces engaged in Iraq, Afghanistan and in Southeast Asia, we are all reminded of the tremendous sacrifices our veterans have made on our behalf.

As we celebrate another Veteran's Day this November, we must back up our promises with our meaningful action. We must honor all of our veterans, irrespective of their station in life, their gender, or the color of their skin.

Like Dorie Miller, many have died for the freedom we cherish. Death is not a respecter of persons. Nor should we be.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOY
RASMUSSEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an amazing woman from Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Joy Rasmussen, a member of the US Women's National Triathlon team, is set to compete at the International Triathlon Union World Championships in December in Queenstown, New Zealand. Joy is ranked 15th nationally in her division and is eligible to compete in next year's World Championship in Portugal. I rise to pay tribute to Joy today before my colleagues here in the Congress.

Joy took up competing as a way to make new friends, though her athletic prowess in this event appears to come natural to her, which is no easy task. Triathlons encompass a quarter-mile to half-mile swim, a 12 to 18 mile bike ride, and a 3 to 5 mile run. Joy's athletic feats are especially commendable, as she pursues excellence outside of a full-time career. Before putting in a full day as a realtor with the Colorado Group Realty, Joy trains in the early morning and makes longer training runs, rides, or swims on the weekend. Even after a nasty spill last February that sidelined her for five months, Joy has continually driven herself to improve.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you to show my appreciation to Joy Rasmussen for being a beacon of inspiration to Americans who attempt to achieve excellence in their personal and professional endeavors. Joy's accomplishments are extraordinary and I am honored that she will be representing America at the upcoming World Championships in New Zealand.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 269,
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the Fiscal Year 2004 Interior appropriations bill conference report for a number of reasons.

I applaud the committee for approving \$400 million to reimburse accounts that the Forest Service borrowed from to fight this past Summer's forest fires. Unfortunately, the Forest Service borrowed \$695 million this year to fight fires. This appropriations bill leaves the public land management accounts that were borrowed from in the hole by nearly \$300 million—and most of these accounts were underfunded to begin with.

Accounts that the Forest Service borrowed from this fire season include the fuel reduction, law enforcement, forest research, recreation, forest jobs programs, fish habitat enhancement, and road and trail maintenance, among many others. These accounts represent some of the most important public lands management programs the federal government funds, and they will be reimbursed at just 57 cents on the dollar.

One of the most important is the fuel reduction account. Even if Congress fully reimburses the fuel reduction account, fuel reduction projects get delayed and pushed to the next year when the accounts are once again robbed. For the safety of our communities and the health of our forests, this cycle cannot continue.

This cycle of robbing other accounts is perpetuated every year by not adequately funding wildland fire suppression. The Forest Service borrowed almost \$700 million this year, in what was a below average fire year. This appropriations bill has a \$289 million increase over last year, but it's not near enough. Regardless of how severe next year's fire season is, this bill guarantees that the Forest Service will have to borrow yet again because Congress is not stepping to the plate and sufficiently funding fire suppression.

In addition to under-funding firefighting, this appropriations bill has a wholly inadequate increase for hazardous fuel reduction projects.

The build-up of hazardous fuels in our national forests is a problem brought about by nearly a century of forest mismanagement. It is a problem with a multi-billion dollar price tag to fix, but so far the President and the Congress have been unwilling to put up the money. This appropriations bill does nothing to rectify the dismal record of under-funding fuel reduction.

The project in the Metolius basin, the location President Bush originally planned to visit during his August trip to Oregon, is an excellent example why restoring forest health will require a substantial investment.

The Metolius project is on relatively flat ground, with sufficient road access, and a substantial amount of large, commercial Ponderosa pine. The project will log more than 20 million boardfeet of timber. Yet, even with that commercial return, it will still cost the Forest Service \$400 an acre to complete the project.

It's clear that even under optimal conditions, with ample commercial timber, it is impossible to clear the large amounts of brush and small trees necessary in successful fuel reduction projects, without spending substantial sums of money.

In contrast, the nearby area where the Davis Butte fire burned is more typical than the Metolius and provides a better picture of the real costs of fuel reduction. Visiting the Davis Butte fire one can see where dense stands of lodge-pole pine provided ladder-fuel for the fire to climb into the crowns of the ponderosa. It is essential that these types of trees be removed, unfortunately, they have little or no commercial value. They may have some value as pulp, mulch, or hog fuel, but most of the vegetation would have to be burned, or chipped and left on-site.

This type of treatment would be in line with the Pacific Northwest Research Station study that was conducted on the Klamath National Forest that estimated cost of fuel reduction at \$1,685 an acre. So not only can we pretend that fuel reduction won't cost anything—as the President has done thus far with his "Healthy Forest Initiative"—we can't pretend that it will be cheap.

There is a multi-billion forest health problem that needs a significant federal investment, but this bill does not make that funding commitment.

Another glaring problem with this appropriations bill is that it includes a fifteen month extension of the Recreational Fee Demonstration program.

This program was created by a rider to the 1996 Interior appropriations, and has been extended numerous times through appropriations riders, without ever having gone through the appropriate authorizing process. It is well past time to end these back-door extensions and allow the Resources Committee to do its job.

Under this program, the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Parks Service can charge citizens fees to recreate on public land, including primitive trails and unimproved campgrounds. Charging citizens a stealth tax for hiking in the woods, walking on the beach, or picnicking with their family is unfair and punitive. It is appropriate to charge a modest fee for campgrounds or boat launches to pay for facilities and upkeep. But to charge a fee to park a car on the side of a logging road or at a trail head turns our public lands into the king's domain.

Beyond my philosophical objections, the mismanagement of the program by the Forest Service is staggering. The program was created to address the maintenance backlog on public land facilities, but only 50 cents of every dollar collected goes toward maintaining or improving our public lands. The rest is eaten up by administrative and collection costs. Fifty percent overhead costs does not make an effective government program.

And a recent investigation by the General Accounting Office (GAO) found that in 2001—the last year for which data is available—the Forest Service erroneously used \$10 million in appropriated funds to bolster the program. The Forest Service did not report these additional costs to Congress in their annual report. Nor did they report \$2.8 million of other administrative and vendor costs. This kind of deceptive representation in the Forest Service's annual report on the effectiveness of the program is disgraceful.

In addition, it is entirely unclear whether the program is actually fulfilling its purpose of reducing the maintenance backlog on forest system lands. The GAO states that "the Forest Service does not have a process for measuring the impact of fee demonstration expenditures on reducing the deferred maintenance problem. In addition, the GAO found that the Forest Service has yet to reliably estimate its deferred maintenance needs. Why would Congress continue to renew a program through an appropriations rider when the beneficiaries of the program don't know to what extent it's working, or even to what extent it's needed?"

It is time to end the Forest Service's abuse of the Recreational Fee Demonstration program, but this appropriations bill perpetuates the abuse by again extending the program, this time by more than a year.

Finally, this bill negates a federal court's decision that Native American tribes have a right to a full accounting of their own trust monies and assets. I find it hard to believe that this Congress would support an appropriations rider that amounts to an unjust taking of property without just compensation or due process of law.

Last year this House overwhelmingly voted to strip a similar provision that would have kept the Department of Interior from conducting a complete accounting of the Indian trust fund. Rectifying the historic mismanagement of the Indian trust fund is one of the most critical issues facing Native American tribes, and is simply a matter of justice. This appropriations bill will surely delay the resolution of the Indian trust fund accounting for years.

This Interior appropriations bill conference report woefully under-funds wildland fire-fighting and hazardous fuel reduction projects. In addition, it extends an unwarranted recreation tax on the American people, and denies Native Americans a full accounting of their trust accounts. For these reasons I urge my colleagues to oppose the report.

ACKNOWLEDGING MASTER SERGEANT DENNIS TAKESHITA'S 37 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE IN DEFENSE OF OUR GREAT NATION

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest mahalo and aloha to Master Sergeant Dennis Takeshita of Hawai'i as he retires from an illustrious career spanning 37 years of tireless and dedicated service to our country.

Master Sergeant Takeshita's service to our great nation began in 1966, when he received a commission in the United States Air Force Reserve upon graduation from the University of Hawai'i, and went on to serve on active duty until 1972. Shortly after his discharge, Master Sergeant Takeshita joined the Hawai'i Air National Guard and served for 30 more years, earning numerous citations and awards for his professionalism and service.

Throughout his long career, he served in the Vietnam Conflict, the Kosovo Campaign, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Noble

Eagle, and Operation Joint Forge. He also served the people of Hawai'i both during and after Hurricane Iniki, which ravaged the Island of Kaua'i and parts of O'ahu, earning him the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Of course, as with all great men, he owes a debt of gratitude to those who supported and nurtured him throughout his life. Master Sergeant Takeshita's father, Lawrence K. Takeshita, his mother, Frances M. Takeshita, his daughter Alison and son Brian have been there to lend their support. They are immensely proud of him and his successes during his military career.

Serving one's country is a selfless act. I commend Master Sergeant Takeshita on his commitment to our country. His patriotism, loyalty and courageous leadership are the embodiment of the Air Force Core Values. And, of course, his island home is deeply proud of him.

I close by saying to Master Sergeant Takeshita: aloha, on a well-deserved retirement, and I wish you the very best on your future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JAMES RICHARDS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise to pay tribute to the passing of a great man from my district. James Richards, a native of Western Colorado, recently passed away at the age of 69. James dedicated his life to public service and to the challenging legal profession. I am honored today to bring his contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation.

After graduating from Western State College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History-Political Science and English in 1955, James went on to law school at the University of Colorado, receiving his degree in 1960. Upon passing the Colorado Bar, James briefly served as Colorado's Assistant Attorney General, before becoming a legislative assistant and executive assistant for Senator Peter Dominick.

James proved his versatility and multifaceted talents throughout his distinguished career. James held positions as the Assistant US Attorney in Denver, the Chief of Buffalo, New York's Organized Crime Strike Force, and the Vice President of the Capital Legal Foundation. His stellar career of public service attracted the attention of President Reagan when he was nominated and confirmed as Inspector General to the Department of Energy in 1981, and Inspector General to the Department of the Interior in 1985. James' appeal reached across partisan lines as President George H. W. Bush and President Bill Clinton asked him to continue in his position until he chose to retire on March 31, 1993.

Mr. Speaker, James Richards was a dedicated man that selflessly served his community and country, and I am honored to pay tribute to such an industrious public servant. His lifetime of service is an incredible model for America's youth. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family during this time of bereavement.

EXTENDING THE TERM OF THE FOREST COUNTIES PAYMENTS COMMITTEE

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, the Forest Counties Payments Committee was created by Congress in 2000 to make recommendations and report on certain payments to counties. Perhaps most important, the committee was charged with monitoring and submitting a report on payments made under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-determination Act (Pub. L. 106-393), also known as "County Payments" legislation. But the Committee and the payments were created by different pieces of legislation and were erroneously set to expire at different times. This bill will correct that error and extend the authorization of the Committee so that it expires with the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-determination Act.

County Payments legislation has provided rural counties in the West with some level of economic certainty following the precipitous decline in timber revenue from federal land. These payments have been critical for education funding in rural school districts that were once timber-dependent. In addition, payments have been used for road maintenance, successful community policing programs, vital search and rescue equipment, noxious weed control, collaborative forest health projects, and the restoration of important fish habitat, just to name a few benefits.

The committee submitted its Report to Congress on County Payments legislation in February. The report provided invaluable information about the implementation of the County Payments legislation, and recommendations for reauthorization. Unfortunately, Congress has yet to act to reauthorize this important law. As Congress prepares to reauthorize it, hopefully in the next year, the Committee's expertise and advice on the law will be vital to ensuring Congress acts in the best interest of those in need of County Payments funding. Approving this bill to authorize the Forest Counties Payments Committee throughout the duration of the County Payments law will make sure that happens. I urge the bill's adoption.

THE HEALTHCARE EQUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2003

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join my colleagues in the introduction of our proposed Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act, a bill that will address the glaring disparities in health care of our minority populations.

While significant advances in health care have been made, it has been empirically demonstrated that minority populations disproportionately lack access to quality health care. For example, minority groups are less likely to

have health insurance and are less likely to receive appropriate health care services. These communities are also significantly underrepresented in our health care workforce.

I am fully committed to the elimination of racial and ethnic disparities in health care access, quality, and in our health care workforce, because we all deserve equal treatment when it comes to our health. Additionally, a full investment in health care will improve the economic well-being of our Nation.

For these reasons, I am an original cosponsor of the Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act. This bill will reduce racial and ethnic disparities and improve the health care for minority communities by: expanding health care coverage, removing language and cultural barriers, improving workforce diversity, improving data collection, creating and funding programs that reduce health disparities, promoting agency accountability, and strengthening our health institutions that already serve our minority populations.

I am grateful that one vital component of this bill recognizes the late Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink by creating a Health and Gender Research Fellowship program in her name. This fellowship program, which will examine and research gender and health disparities, is an appropriate tribute to someone who is so well remembered for her work in education policy and known for her beliefs in social and economic justice.

I commend the work of the Democratic Leadership in both chambers not only to bring the issue of health care disparities to light, but to address this national concern firmly and directly. I further appreciate the leadership's willingness to work with the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Native American Caucus to ensure that our respective communities are included in this legislation. I especially appreciated the opportunity to assist in efforts to ensure that Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders were specifically included.

As the Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act will provide true health benefits for all, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BELLEVILLE, WISCONSIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 125th anniversary of the Belleville Public Library, in Belleville, Wisconsin. Since 1878, the Belleville Public Library has been providing an invaluable service to the community.

The Belleville Library opened its doors on December 14, 1878 when a local businessman, Henry Story, donated a collection of 133 books. The library's collection has grown over the past 125 years to an impressive 20,000 items, serving the community with print materials, audio books, videos, and CD ROM products. Belleville residents are also fortunate to have access to the library interchange network, a consortium of South Central Wis-

consin libraries that operate a shared automation system providing access to over 2 million items.

A public library is a strong component of a democratic society. Providing an equal opportunity for its residents to learn and grow is just one of the many functions a public library serves. In the library's 125 years of service, the Belleville Public Library has provided programs which foster learning for all within the community. The library has consistently encouraged learning through programs catering to all members of the community including summer reading programs for children, book discussions, and biweekly story hours.

For 125 years, the Belleville Public Library has recognized the vital importance of free access to information in a democratic society. I wholeheartedly believe that access to information allows everyone in a community to prepare themselves for the future, experience personal growth, and to perform the civic duties encouraged of all citizens in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today and join the residents of Belleville in honoring the impressive 125 years of service from the Belleville Public Library.

TRIBUTE TO COACH ROD SMEDLEY

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Coach Rod Smedley, former Head Football Coach of San Bernardino Valley College. Coach Smedley is an individual of great distinction, and we join with family and friends in honoring his remarkable achievements and years of dedicated service to the Inland Empire.

Coach Smedley is an exceptional individual who has not only devoted his life to helping the San Bernardino Valley College community but has also been an important pillar of support for the student-athletes of the college. His kindness and passionate spirit render him a vital resource and a beloved member of the college community.

For the past 26 years, Coach Smedley has dedicated himself to serving the college and achieving a remarkable level of achievement. As Head Football Coach, he guided the San Bernardino Valley College Wolverines to five Bowl Championships, including three consecutive wins between 1995 and 1997, seven Football Foothill Conference Championships, and the highest winning percentage of a Junior College football coach in the Inland Empire. Coach Smedley has also led the Men's and Women's tennis teams to a combined total of seven conference titles. He has been an integral contributor to the management and administration of San Bernardino sports, as well as an active participant and positive influence on the lives of many college students.

In addition to these contributions, Coach Smedley was twice awarded the honor of California Community College Football Coach of the Year and awarded the Foothill Conference Football Coach of the Year four times. Most importantly, under his guidance, Coach Smedley has seen more student-athletes receive scholarships to four-year schools than any other Junior College coach in the Inland

Empire. He has received the highest possible evaluation of his profession for integrity and performance, and has taken a proactive approach to leadership in the college community.

Through his participation in countless activities, Coach Smedley has exhibited kindness, humility, and a deep resolve to ameliorate all aspects of San Bernardino Valley College, so it is only appropriate that we honor him today with his family and the residents of the Inland Empire.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we salute Coach Rod Smedley. We express sincere admiration that he is being honored for his incomparable accomplishments and hope that others may recognize his good works in the community.

TRIBUTE TO RONNIE WILLETT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district. Ronald Willett has dedicated his life to the betterment of the people of Pagosa Springs, Colorado and this nation. On October 2nd of this year, Ronnie announced his retirement from his position with the Pagosa Springs Sun Newspaper. For over four decades, Ronnie has worked tirelessly to keep the people of his community well informed. It is my honor to call the attention of this body of Congress, and this nation, to Ronnie's many contributions.

Ronnie moved to Pagosa Springs in 1944, where he was a standout player on the Pagosa Springs football team. After graduating from high school, Ronnie joined the United States Navy in 1954. In the Navy, he served his country honorably and achieved the rank of Petty Officer First Class.

Upon leaving the military, Ronnie went to work for the Pagosa Springs Sun in 1962, where he quickly became an accomplished newspaperman and was instrumental in the exponential growth of the newspaper's circulation. Ronnie used his position with the newspaper to take an active role in the community. Over the years, he donated a multitude of printing jobs to various community projects and volunteer groups.

Ronnie's contributions to the citizens of Pagosa Springs reach far beyond his work with the Sun. In the 1960's, he was a member of the Jaycees and helped numerous youngsters build soapbox racers. Currently, he spends his time as a dedicated member of the Fleet Reserve Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and the American Legion.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege to pay tribute to a man who has spent his life serving his fellow Coloradans and this nation. Ronnie's selfless dedication to his community and country is truly admirable. On behalf of the citizens of Pagosa Springs, and a grateful nation, I would like to thank Ronnie Willett for his service.

HONORING THE DEDICATED EMPLOYEES OF THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, recent incidents and undercover investigations have highlighted deficiencies in our nation's aviation security system. It is important, however, to remember how much things have improved since September 11th. How soon we forget about security on the cheap. It was only a few years ago that the screener of the year testified before the Aviation Subcommittee that he was only able to keep his job because he had additional income and wasn't dependent upon his screener salary. McDonalds was considered a step up for most screeners, turnover was 400 percent at some airports, and private security companies even had felons screening passengers and luggage.

After September 11th, everything changed. We now have dedicated, well-paid professionals protecting the traveling public each and every day. I want to take a moment to thank the hard working employees of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) who have dedicated themselves to improving security at our nation's airports. I recently received an e-mail from Daniel Bernath, a TSA employee at Portland International Airport, that I would like to insert in the RECORD.

It was nice meeting with you for a few moments as you got your plane ticket at United Airlines at PDX. I'm the TSA officer who thanked you for your work in aviation security. . . . As TSA officers we see the holes and potential problems in aviation security and are troubled by them. I have reported several to my superiors at TSA. . . . The TSA officers are proud to be serving our country even though the job is extremely physically tiring and dangerous (we are looking for explosives, knives and guns, and up to one third of us have been injured. . . . one suffered a heart attack last month, another TSA officer suffered a stroke at PDX). I have no trouble falling asleep at night because, I, like all TSA officers, am completely physically exhausted at the end of my watch. . . . The TSA rank and file is a very impressive bunch and I am proud to be one of them and again wear my country's uniform and I hope that your fellow Congressmen are proud of us too; we are all highly educated—many have college degrees (I have a juris doctor), many have management experience and we are all there after 9.11 to protect our fellow Americans. We are there to defend our country and unlike the screeners before the attack, it is not just "a job" to us. At least three times a day a fellow American will watch me search her bag and say "we're really glad the TSA is here—thank you." I remind them that we took an oath to protect the United States and point to our TSA emblem which has 9 stars and 11 stripes in the flag, symbolizing the reason for our creation and our mission that it never happen again; the attack on the United States on 9.11. I think our physical presence and professional demeanor helps our fellow Americans feel comfortable about flying again. . . . Daniel A. Bernath TSA at PDX."

Mr. Bernath's e-mail says it best, "the TSA rank and file is a very impressive bunch, I am proud to be one of them and again wear my

country's uniform and I hope that your fellow Congressmen are proud of us too." I agree with Mr. Bernath, TSA employees are an impressive bunch and, although there is always room for improvement, I am very proud of the work they are doing. I want to thank Mr. Bernath and his fellow TSA employees who come to work each day dedicated to protecting the flying public. I hope my colleagues in Congress will join me in doing all we can to make sure they succeed in this mission.

LETTER FROM JEFFREY DAVID HARVEY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, President Bush today signs for \$87 billion to aid our United States Military and assist both Iraq and Afghanistan. I wanted to include in the record a copy of a letter I received from a young man who served as a Congressional Intern. Jeff states much better than anyone why today's action by Congress and President Bush is necessary.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MICA: I don't know if you remember me, but I worked as an unpaid intern in your Casselberry office about 7 years ago. Right now I am in Northern Iraq with the 101st Airborne Division. I have been with the Division during the entire war and also served in Afghanistan for a few months with the division's 3rd brigade Rakkasans.

I am writing to you because I am concerned about the debate over the cost of rebuilding Iraq. From what I see on the news, people back home, especially the Democratic candidates for President, have not put two and two together. They complain about the attacks and the danger to our troops, but yet they do not want to give the cause any more money. We are in support of stability operations. There is no field manual on the things we are doing here but rebuilding a country is something that takes time. Relationships must be formed. With that, America has to realize that the fighting is still going on. We are fighting for the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. Our ammunition is therefore money. I am in charge of multiple renovation and reconstruction projects and each one takes money to complete.

The last few weeks, the money source has been cut off, and I am sure the debate over how much to spend is a leading cause to this. I have met many Iraqis that are growing impatient, asking for work, wanting to do anything to feed their family. Sir, please let your fellow Representatives and Senators know that if we are going remain here, fighting for the hearts and minds of the Iraqis, we need to have the ammunition to support it. We have to have money to help rebuild the country, put people to work and get the economy going. I am certain that by doing the right thing for these people now, it will pay off in the long run. WWII was not fought because of the concentration camps and the social injustices in Germany, but looking back now, that is cited as probably the most important good that came out of it. This war was fought for many reasons, but WMD or not, the mass graves and the social injustices by the old regime have ceased. Iraq's new found freedom far outweighs any sacrifices that myself or my men had to make by coming here. All we want to do is to finish the job that we started.

Please urge those on the Hill to support the troops, not just in voice but in action. I

appreciate you listening to what I have to say.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY DAVID HARVEY,
1LT, FA.

TRIBUTE TO CAREY COX

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district. Recently, Trooper Carey Cox announced his retirement from the Colorado State Patrol after nearly three decades of dedicated and courageous service. In recognition of this service to the citizens of Colorado, I am proud to call Carey's contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation.

Carey began his career with the Colorado State Patrol in May of 1976. Following his graduation from the Police Academy, Carey was assigned to the Broomfield State Trooper's Office in 1982. He worked there until his transfer to Grand Junction. In Grand Junction, Carey went to work for the Colorado State Patrol's Hazardous Materials Unit, where he was well known as an excellent Hazardous Materials Technician.

Throughout his career, Carey was instrumental in promoting safety on Colorado's highways. One of his many notable accomplishments was the successful implementation of a program to distribute child passenger safety seats throughout Western Colorado. This caring act for the children of Colorado illustrates the dedication and heroism that defined Carey's career. He was truly a tremendous asset to the State Patrol, and the people of Colorado. Carey does not intend to be idle in his retirement. On November 13th of this year, he will depart for Kosovo as a member of a United Nations mission in that country.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a privilege to pay tribute to a man who has spent his life serving his fellow Coloradans. Trooper Carey Cox spent a quarter of a century protecting and serving the citizens of Colorado, and his heroism is certainly worthy of recognition here today. On behalf of the people of Colorado, and a grateful nation, I would like to thank Carey for his service.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak out for human rights in Burma and to call for continued action against this regime. I commend my good friend from Pennsylvania, Mr. Pitts for his great leadership on this issue and his tremendous efforts on behalf of the Burmese people.

Earlier this year I stood on the floor of this House in support of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003. The piece of legislation passed this House overwhelmingly, by a vote of 418-2. In the bill, we called on the State Department, and especially Secretary of

State Colin Powell, to use every opportunity to press for freedom and democracy in Burma.

I want to publicly encourage the Secretary to continue his outspoken call for freedom in Burma, and suggest some changes in the international strategy to bring about democracy and human rights in that country.

It is now clear that United Nations efforts to bring about democracy in Burma have completely failed. Rather than making progress, the efforts have simply bought time for the regime, and allowed it to perpetuate its increasingly brutal stranglehold on power. The United Nations envoy to Burma, rather than serving as a positive voice for change, has repeatedly bailed out the regime just as critical international pressure has begun to make a difference. His defense of the regime's head of military intelligence Khin Nyunt is beyond unacceptable.

It is time to review the personnel and mandate on the United Nations role in Burma, and to give a qualified mediator the tools they need, including access to the United Nations Security Council, to make a difference. The State Department should lead the efforts for these changes at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly.

The process is broken. We need to revamp this system with new actors as soon as possible.

TRIBUTE TO THE ORANGE &
BLACK NEWSPAPER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to a remarkable newspaper produced by the students of Grand Junction High School and recently named the best large high school newspaper in the state of Colorado for the 2002–2003 school year. The Orange & Black student-run newspaper has a history of excellence in its journalistic efforts, as it has been one of the top newspapers in the state for seven years. I join with my colleagues today in recognizing the fine efforts of the students of Grand Junction High School and their remarkable newspaper.

Erik Lincoln and Sarah Shean, the co-editors-in-chief of the Orange & Black for the previous school year, have now moved onto Mesa State College and Gonzaga University respectively. But they have left an impressive mark for their successors by winning first place in the general excellence and graphic illustration categories. These editors have also instilled greatness in their peers that resulted in first place awards in informational graphics, personal opinion columns, personality feature, and headline writing categories.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand here today and recognize this fine example of stewardship and hard work in journalism by these dedicated high school students from Grand Junction. Their eloquent product demonstrates a mastery of photographic, written and editorial expression not often achieved by high school students.

INADEQUATE TREATMENT OUR
TROOPS AND VETERANS ARE
RECEIVING FROM THE ADMINIS-
TRATION

SPEECH OF

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this past week we sent the largest supplemental appropriations bill ever written to the President. The majority of the money is to be used for the men and women serving in Iraq.

A total of \$64.7 billion in military funding was included in the bill. This includes:

A total of \$64.7 billion for military activities in support of military operations mainly in Iraq and Afghanistan.

\$39.2 billion for activities related to military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, including: \$24.0 billion for the Army, \$2.0 billion for the Navy, \$1.2 billion for the Marine Corps, and \$5.4 billion for the Air Force. The total includes an extra \$100 million to find and destroy conventional munitions in Iraq.

The agreement appropriates \$17.8 billion for military personnel, including: \$12.9 billion for the Army, \$816 million for the Navy, \$753 million for the Marine Corps and \$3.4 billion for Air Force personnel costs.

The funds are meant to cover the costs associated with the mobilization to active duty of reserve and National Guard personnel, including pay, travel, per diem, and health care and personnel necessary to maintain critical manning at authorized levels.

Extends TRICARE—the military's health care system—health coverage system to National Guard members and reservists and their families who lack health insurance and do not have access to employer-provided plans.

The measure authorizes continued payment of per diem for travel of family members of military personnel who are ill or injured as a result of active duty service, and continues the increased monthly rate of Imminent Danger Pay and Family Separation Allowances through Sept. 30, 2004.

The agreement includes \$55 million for travel costs of troops on rest and recuperation leave, including the cost of travel home from disembarkation points in the United States.

The measure provides \$32 million for family counseling, domestic violence prevention, and readjustment counseling and \$10 million for similar programs specifically for the National Guard.

Finally, the measure retroactively and permanently exempts servicemembers with combat-related injuries from the requirement of paying for subsistence meal charges while hospitalized.

The agreement appropriates \$5.5 billion to replenish equipment and munitions expended during military operations in Iraq and in the global war on terrorism. The total includes: \$142 million to repair or replace Bradley fighting vehicles, M1 Abrams tanks and other related equipment used in Iraq and Afghanistan; \$239 million for more armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled vehicles, or HUMVEEs; \$300 million to purchase additional body armor suits and modern flak jackets and to clear unexploded ordnance; and \$46 million for radio jammers to disrupt attempts by Iraqi

dissidents to explode remote controlled bombs and mines.

The measure also directs the Defense Department to increase the availability of modern hydration systems to soldiers in Iraq and to provide quarterly reports to Congress on department efforts to address equipment shortages.

The agreement provides \$525 million for military construction funds—\$112 million more than requested.

Most of the funds will go to construct new Air Force and Army facilities in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, and other facilities providing support for operations in the Middle East and the global war on terrorism.

Defense Health Program—Provides \$658 million for military health care costs.

When these young men and women return from the Gulf, they are going to leave the service in droves. Morale is low, and these people cannot get home quick enough.

At the same time, the Republican leadership refused to include \$1.3 billion dollars in emergency veterans health funding, claiming that it will be included in the regular VA–HUD appropriations bill.

This severe funding shortfalls has resulted in health-care rationing among our veterans.

Over 200,000 are currently waiting 6 months or longer for initial and follow-up medical appointments; many are reporting that they are waiting 1 to 2 years.

The Veterans Administration, in order to meet this crisis, has taken steps to stop veterans from seeking care. The VA refuses to enroll any new Category 8 veterans.

Funding shortfalls are putting veteran safety and the quality of their care at ever greater risk. An April 2001 study sponsored by four Health and Human Services agencies confirmed that inadequate direct-care nurse staffing increases risks of urinary tract infections, pneumonia, shock, intestinal bleeding, and lengthy hospital stays.

Doctors and nurses under greater stress risk injury, too, as their increased workloads cause slower mental processing, diminished memory, and improper responses to patients.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. AIR FORCE CAPT.
SEAN KELLEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor a U.S. Air Force Captain who has performed a great service to this nation during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Capt. Sean Kelley was instrumental in the delivery of Mohammed Al-Rehaief—the man responsible for providing the information of Pfc. Jessica Lynch's whereabouts that ultimately led to her successful rescue on April 2nd from Saddam Hospital in Nasiriyah. I would like to join my colleagues here today and all Americans in recognizing Capt. Kelley's selfless service.

Capt. Kelley is a graduate of Gunnison High School who has dutifully served the Air Force since his commission in 1993. He has made many trips to the Middle East but his most recent delivery of an Iraqi man and his family to the safety of the United States is especially commendable. This delivery aided our troops

in bringing home an American soldier who symbolizes heroism at its finest. During the flight, Al-Rehaief told him parts of the story of saving Lynch as he eagerly waited in the cockpit. Capt. Kelley will return to the Middle East at the end of the month when he returns to duty.

Captain Sean Kelley has courageously served our nation and we are indebted to him for continuing to protect America and her interests. I extend my warmest regards and thanks for the great sacrifices that Capt. Kelley has made in defending this nation.

HONORING THE 228TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, November 10th will mark the 228th Anniversary of the founding of the United States Marine Corps. To mark the occasion, I would like to submit for the RECORD a special tribute to the Marines who participated in the Liberation of Guam written by Retired Brigadier General and former Delegate from Guam, the Honorable Vicente Tomas (Ben) Blaz.

Ben was a teenager during World War II when Japanese Imperial forces invaded and occupied Guam in December 1941. During the Liberation of Guam in July 1944, he was captured by a Marine Patrol of the 9th Marine Regiment and later released upon confirmation he was a native Chamorro. Years later, he would serve as Commanding Officer of the same Regiment.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Notre Dame where he was later honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. He also holds a Master's Degree from the George Washington University and a Doctor of Laws Degree from the University of Guam. In addition he is a distinguished graduate of the Naval War College. In 1992, he was recognized as an Outstanding Asian-American in Public Service.

After a distinguished career in the Marine Corps, which included being awarded the Legion of Merit (twice awarded), the Bronze Star (with Combat V), Navy Commendation Medal (twice awarded), the Combat Action Ribbon, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (Gold Star) General Blaz retired and returned to Guam in 1980.

In 1984, the People of Guam elected him to Congress where he served with distinction for four terms. During his time in office, Congressman Blaz began the difficult task of addressing the unfinished business of World War II, the issue of war reparations for the people of Guam. He brings a unique perspective to this issue as a survivor of the Occupation of Guam, as a Marine, and as a public servant. Today, Congressman Blaz is a statesman respected by the People of Guam and a strong moral voice for our times. His insight is reflected in the following essay which conveys his deep love for our island and his profound admiration for the liberators of Guam.

Few people have achieved so much in one lifetime as General Blaz. I am honored to enter his essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that all Americans may come to appreciate the men and women who wear the eagle, globe and anchor of the United States Marine Corps. The People of Guam honor all those who serve our nation in the armed forces, but in our hearts, first among equals, are the Marines, Guam's liberators, for whom our main street is named "Marine Drive".

On this 228th Anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corp, I submit this tribute written by one of the Corps' finest, Brigadier General (Ret.) Vicente Tomas (Ben) Blaz.

A MOVING MOMENT OF SILENCE ON MARINE DRIVE

(By Ben Blaz)

The news that the Marine Corps Drive Rededication Act is scheduled for introduction in the Guam Legislature on November 10 brought a smile to this manamko's face. It sharpened the focus in my mind on an episode that took place during the Liberation Day parade in 1958.

As Commanding Officer of a company of Marines at the Barracks, I had the honor of leading them in the parade. For the special event, we decided to wear combat clothing and carry packs and weapons much like the liberators did. Participating in this annual observance and remembrance was a new experience for my men as it was for me in my role as their commander.

It is not unusual for those in a parade staging area to be a little edgy before a march. But the march that day was not part of a football rally or a Little League parade. Symbolically, we were following in the footsteps of a long line of heroic Marines of World War II, many of whom fought and fell where we were gathering. It was a sobering thought that prevailed over a solemn occasion.

The parade route was different. As always, it was festive. Spectators lined both sides of Marine Drive stretching from Adelepe to East Agana. Most of them had survived the war and had vivid recollection of the enemy occupation. Whatever animosity they harbored, however, it was subdued that day. The crowd cheered loudly for everyone and everything that moved before them. All the villages had a float and every military service was represented in the parade—including marching bands.

As the parade was about to start, I braced myself against the possibility of emoting publicly. When we entered the parade route, the crowd roared. As we approached the reviewing stand full of military and political dignitaries, I gave the traditional command to salute, "Eyes Right." At that instant, as though directed to do so on cue, the crowd "returned" our salute with deafening silence.

For a few minutes, the only audible sound was from our boots pounding the pavement in unison. Just a few years earlier, similar boots pounded the original road all along the coast as Marines charged from their landing crafts, crossed the road under heavy gunfire, and fought their way inland against an entrenched enemy. For 1200 Marines, it was to be their last crossing. About 6000 of their comrades returned to the beach on stretchers.

My effort to control my emotions failed. I was marching solely on disciplined automation. Although tears swelled, I was able to connect with the faces in the crowd, young

and old. Without uttering a sound, I heard the message radiating from their faces—of appreciation, of admiration, and of affection—for the Marines passing in review, for whom Marine Drive was originally dedicated. I, a liberated son of Guam, had the privilege of marching at that parade with a company of United States Marines who were, in effect, my liberators.

In the ensuing years, I have participated in Liberation Day parades as a general officer of Marines and as a Member of the U.S. Congress. But, I was never again to feel and embrace a moment such as I did that day in 1958.

I tip my hat to Senator Bob Klitzkie, himself a Marine, and to his fellow Senators for sponsoring the bill to rededicate Marine Drive. It is a magnanimous expression of remembrance. Unlike the typical inanimate monoliths that serve as memorials and centerpieces at annual ceremonies, Marine (Corps) Drive is a living memorial, a touchstone, a reminder to future generations how dearly we paid for the freedom we enjoy.

Happy Birthday, Marines!

TRIBUTE TO FRANKLIN BARTON SAMPLE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I pay tribute to Franklin Barton Sample of New Castle, Colorado. Franklin passed away recently at the age of 81, and as I look back on his life, I see the story of a great American. As his family mourns their loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember Franklin's life, and celebrate the work that he did on behalf of others.

After graduating from New Castle High School, Franklin answered his country's call to duty and went to serve in Japan during World War II. While there, he served honorably as a member of the 59th Ordnance Ammunition Company. Upon returning to Colorado, Franklin met Shirley, who would become his wife of 56 years.

Franklin will be remembered as a dedicated rancher and steward of the land. However, he was similarly devoted to service of the New Castle community. In 1957, President Eisenhower appointed Franklin to be the Postmaster of New Castle. His dedication to this post was legendary, and upon retirement, he received the Colorado General Assembly Award for his compassionate service. Franklin also served as Senior Warden for the St. John's Episcopal Church for 10 years, and was a member of the Volunteer Fire Department, the American Legion, and the York and Scottish Rites of the Masons.

Mr. Speaker, Franklin's dedication and selflessness certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. It is my privilege to pay tribute to him for his contributions to his community, our state, and this country. I would like to extend my thoughts and deepest sympathies to his loved ones during this difficult time.